

Tonight's Offering Will Go to Students in Need at Local High Schools - We do not "pass the plate"; instead, we invite you to place your offerings in the wooden box on the table at the back of the sanctuary — thank you for your generosity
Restrooms are found near the kitchen (to the left as you exit the sanctuary).
*Where indicated in the order of worship, please rise in body or spirit. **Bold** font indicates congregation to respond.*



**Welcome to the
Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2025, 5:00 pm**

*Please enjoy our Nativity collection set up for
viewing on the window-side of the Sanctuary*

Special Musical Offering

Flute, Rev. Kay Huggins accompanied by Becky Jordan

Welcome and Call to Worship

Come as a child to the kingdom.

Come believing in angels on heavenly errands.

Come with eyes for a wandering star

And ears for the message of dreams.

Come as a child who hears the angels proclaim,

"With God, all things are possible!"

Come as a child to the miraculous kingdom of the miraculous God.

Come, let us worship and celebrate together!

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent & Christ Candles

We have been lighting the Advent candles, praying that our preparation for Christmas may help us to look outward in love, and to look forward in hope.

Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now.

Let us pray that waiting for Christmas has shown us how to be patient when things take time, how to live for Christ day by day, and how to wait for promises not yet fulfilled.

Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now.

Here is good news of great joy, for all people: . . . we may know the warmth and brightness of Jesus Christ, and show Christ's love to the world.

Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now.

Hallelujah! Amen!

Hymn *(please rise)*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Glory to God, 133

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come, and behold him, born the King of angels! O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Hymn continues on the next page

True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created! O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

A Congregational Prayer for Reconciliation *(please read responsively)*

O Holy God, just when life seems cozy and comfortably predictable:

Angels appear unexpectedly and point us in directions we would not have chosen.

Just when we have reached the point of comforting assurance in our respectability:

Angels appear unexpectedly and pose uncomfortable questions we would rather avoid.

And when we have followed the pointing of angels and answered their disquieting questions,
we find ourselves facing those moments where we have stumbled or ignored the needs of others.

**When we lose all hope and it seems as if things can't get any worse,
we remember and seek your forgiveness . . .**

(a time of silence is kept)

Angels then appear unexpectedly, and remind us that 'all shall be well,
And all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well'.

**God of Love, as Christmas approaches, may we have the faith of Mary and Joseph,
the faith of the shepherds, and of all who encountered angels.**

Help us to believe the Good News of your deep and never-ending love.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel,

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Hymn *(please remain seated)*

O Little Town of Bethlehem *(verse 3 & 4)*

Glory to God, 121

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Lessons and Carols

Please remain seated for singing the hymns unless indicated otherwise.

Prayer for Illumination

**As the star led the shepherds to the manger to find the babe,
may we also be led closer to your great gift in the hearing and the singing
of your word tonight. Amen.**

The Prophet's Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-3, 5b-7 and Isaiah 40:1-5

Christ is coming. Be glad and believe.

Hymn (*please remain seated*)

O Little Town of Bethlehem (*verses 1 & 2*)

Glory to God, 121

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

Luke's Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38 and 2:1-7

Christ has come. Rejoice and receive.

Hymn (*Please remain seated*)

Away in a Manger

Glory to God, 115

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Two Readings

You Are Deeply, Deeply Loved by John Harvey

First Coming by Madeline L'Engle

Hymn (*please remain seated*)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Glory to God, 119

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Luke's Lesson of Angels and Shepherds

Luke 2:8-20

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Prayers of the People

Christmas Eve Liturgy and Sharing the Light

Now is the time to dim our lights and light our candles.

The Christ Candle will be brought down the center aisle in order to share the light.

*Please hold your candle at a 90-degree angle to the lit candle of your neighbor
and then repeat the process until everyone has the light.*

In the beginning and in the midst of darkness, God spoke.

Let there be light.

In the beginning was the Word. And the Word came and dwelt among us.

And the Word was the light of all peoples.

Let there be light.

We light our candles, knowing that the One who is the source and promise
of all light is the One whose birth we celebrate.

Let there be light.

We are here to seek a little light by which we can see, by which we can live,
by which we can love.

Let there be light.

We need to know that we are part of something greater than the flicker of our own little candles.

We long to be assured that the light of Christ is with us.

Let there be light.

We light our candles in gratitude for the love and light that shines through the babe
born in Bethlehem who became the Redeemer of us all.

Let there be light.

Verse 1

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Verse 2

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born,
Christ, the Savior is born."

Verse 3

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Verse 4

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

A Reading

Light to Crumple Up The Darkness by Roddy Hamilton

Hymn (please rise)

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Glory to God, 136

*Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. *(Refrain)*

The shepherds feared and trembled When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. *(Refrain)*

Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. *(Refrain)*

A Blessing (read responsively)

Let us step into the sacred space which waits for Christmas Day.

Let us do this with faith as those who believe the Christ is coming.

Go in peace. May the love that made the stars, be your guiding light.

And may the stars of joy shine on every needed place,

The sounds of angel-song delight the waiting earth

And the life of Jesus Christ reach out to all who long for love.

May the love revealed in Jesus be your hope and inspiration; And may the love of
the ever-present Spirit, give you courage, joy, and hope. Now and for ever.

Amen.

Postlude

Thank you for being with us this evening.

Have a safe trip to wherever you will be on Christmas Day.

Every Sunday, we gather at 10:10 AM.

Please come back and worship God with us!

Joyous Noel to all!

*We are an Earth-care church: if you don't want to take your bulletin home or share with others after worship,
please be so kind as to recycle your bulletin in the basket at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!*

Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church was founded in October 1987. We are a diverse congregation,
with members who come from many different faith backgrounds and geographic areas.

We welcome you to worship with us every Sunday at 10:10 am!

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Tonight's Leadership in Worship

Pastor Rev. Diane Hoppe Hugo
Readers Ruth Cook, Pat Hudson,
George Huggins, Debbie Patterson,
And Shirley Reese

Advent Wreath lit by
..... Elder Marci Clark & Family
Special Music Kay Huggins
Accompanists..... Buckley Hugo
and Becky Jordan

*Thank you to all who participated in enhancing the sanctuary with poinsettias, especially Suzanne Cook;
and to everyone else who makes this service so special!*

Prayers from the Iona Community

God go with us on our journey of faith — Revive us when we grow weary. direct us when we go astray.

Inspire us when we lose heart, reprove us when we turn back.

*Keep us traveling ever-onwards; a pilgrim people, looking to Jesus Christ who has run the race before us,
and who waits to welcome us home.*



Presents.

Presence.

Wrapped and waiting — the present.

Needed and now within reach — the present.

Yours for the giving/yours for the taking — the present.

*Open the eyes of your heart, the ears of your spirit,
the hands made for helping, and offer your present.*

Hope Was Heard Singing. Wild Goose Publications

A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson

*Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds,
and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door
of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children and the Christmas evening bring us
to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!*