

*You are invited to share your joys and concerns with the congregation. Please place them in the prayer basket on the table to the right as you enter (prayer request sheets are in the basket), or if online use Zoom Chat or Facebook Comments. Please indicate if the request is not public (i.e., for the pastor alone). Your financial offerings can be placed in the offering box on the same table. Restrooms are found near the kitchen, to the left as you exit the sanctuary.*



## **Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church**

**Pastor – Rev. Diane Hoppe Hugo**

*The mission of Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church is to be in partnership with God to transform ourselves, our communities, and our world.*

**Service for the Lord's Day ~ January 18, 2026**

**Welcome**

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. And also with you.*

**Lighting of the Christ Candle & A Time of Silence**

**Prelude** *We invite you to a time of silent meditation and companionship with God.*

**Call to Worship** *(responsive)*

O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**Like a bright star in the night sky, Christ's love lights up the whole world.**

O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**The light of Christ shows us, individually and as a church, who we are and what we can be, where we have been and where we should go.**

O come, let us worship the Lord,

**for God has done wondrous things!**

**Invitation to a Time of Confession**

*We open our hearts to welcome Christ, who brings peace when we, and our world, are troubled.*

*Let us confess our failure to reveal Christ's peace in our lives and our unwillingness to witness to peace in our world as we pray together saying:*

**Prayer of Personal and Communal Confession** *(unison)*

**O God, we are confused and distracted. Too often we forget you have a peace-plan for us and for the world. We fail to see your design; we doubt ways of peacemaking. Bring us, Wise God, from turmoil into confidence; use Christ's church to guide our world toward a better tomorrow. Cheer us with courage. Disturb us with justice. Forgive our failings and teach us Christ's love that together we may witness to your peace in our world.** *(Silence is kept)*

**Affirmation of Forgiveness** *God's light shone as John the Baptist testified to what he saw: Jesus, the long-awaited, coming one! God's light shines in the world and all our human failings cannot overcome it!*

*Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel:* **All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

**Hymn #324** *(please rise)*

**Open My Eyes That I May See**

**Prayer for Illumination** *(unison)* **God of light, open our ears as well as our eyes, so that we may hear your Word read, preached and affirmed and see your Word active in our lives and in your world, through Christ, our Lord, the light of the world. Amen.**

**Scripture Lessons**

**Psalm 40:1-11 and John 1:29-42**

*Come Holy Spirit (silence is kept for reflection). This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## Sermon

*“Faith Questions”. Rev. Kay Huggins, Guest Minister*

## Hymn (please rise) #317

*Holy Ghost, Dispel Our Sadness*

**The Church’s Witness:** The history of the church includes both courage and daring, growth and innovation. However, we often fail to see the risks of Christians who witnessed to their faith. Today, we remember a few who, by death witnessed to Christ’s way in the world. We remember an early Presbyterian Pastor Elijah Lovejoy murdered at age 34 in 1837 for his words and deeds:

**“Emancipation – what is meant by it? Simply that the slaves shall cease to be held as property and shall henceforth be held and treated as human beings. Simply that we should take our feet from off their necks.”**

Today, we remember Dr. Martin Luther King who when 39 died by violence; we remember his words:

**“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”**

Today, we remember the Maryknoll Sisters Ita Ford and Maura Clarke, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel and Lay Missioner Jean Donovan — who were abducted, abused and murdered in El Salvador in 1980 for standing alongside the Salvadoran people. Concerning her witness Jean Donovan, at age 27, wrote:

**“The Peace Corps left today. Several times I have decided to leave El Salvador. I almost could, except for the children, the poor, bruised victims of this insanity. Who would care for them? Whose heart could be so staunch as to favor the reasonable thing in a sea of their tears and helplessness? Not mine, dear friend, not mine.”**

Today, we remember these witnesses of Jesus’ teaching that God does not change the world through violence but through love that refuses to abandon the work of acceptance, justice and compassion. And we add the name of a Presbyterian sister in formation and faith, 37 year old Renee Nicole Good, whose last words were:

**“I’m not mad at you.” Remembering these witnesses we renew our commitment to shine Christ’s light and be Christ’s love in our community and world. Amen.**

## Sharing Joys & Concerns and Prayers of the People

**A Time of Offering and Dedication: (unison) Holy God, your intentions are good, your Word is holy, your promises are sure. By the inspiration of your Spirit, we offer ourselves and our resources to you. Bless our intentions, our offerings, and our hopes. Amen.**

## Hymn #344 (please rise)

*Christ of the Upward Way*

## Charge to the Congregation & Benediction

God is Good—All the Time. All the Time—God is Good.

## Postlude

*Please join us for refreshments right here in Fellowship Hall. We are an Earth Care church: if you don’t take your bulletin with you, please recycle it in the basket on the welcome table. Thank you!*

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Accompanist – Becky Jordan

