

A Sincere Thank You To

Rev. Angela Finet for her pastoral ministry among us.

John and Gloria Hess for their musical leadership.

Aaron Booz, Chuck Few: Euphoniums; Sarah Repkoe, Piano; Evan Gregory, John Hess, Libby Weider: Trumpets; James Zeigler: Trombone; and Bruce Smith, Tuba for providing instrumental music this evening.

Bill Kepner, Cindy Dale, and Eva and Autumn Priest for providing special music.

Thank you to the Choir for their hard work and gifts of music all year long!

Phyllis Kepner for leading worship this evening.

The Schanz and Buohl family for opening the present and lighting our wreath.

Dave and Becky Fuchs and Harold and Janice Ulmer for serving as greeters.

Our ushers Beth Hess, Cindy Heisey, Holly Mele.

Sara and Don Wagner, Cindy Heisey, Joy Meley, Barry Lauver, Wendy Allshouse, and Harry Light for decorations.

Dell Boshnaugle, Dave Fuchs, Michael Graham, Gina Baustista, and Zach Snyder for lighting and sound all year long.

Harry Light for security.

Everyone is welcome to worship with us Sundays at 10:15 a.m. in person or on YouTube. Sunday School and faith formation for children and adults begins at 9:00 a.m.

Mountville Church of the Brethren
60 Clay St., Mountville PA 17554
717-285-5122

Email: office@mountvillecob.org
www.mountvillecob.org

Mountville Church of the Brethren



December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve Service

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP ON CHRISTMAS EVE

6:45 p.m. Christmas Musical Prelude

7:00 p.m. Service of Worship

Hearing assistance devices are available for use. Please see the technician at our sound booth if this service will be helpful to you. Large print bulletins and hymnals are also available. Please speak to one of the ushers if you would like either one or both of these.

***Congregation stands in body or spirit.**

CHIMES

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE *Away in a Manager* arr. Harmon

BECOMING PRESENT / LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE[^]

What Can I Give Him? Solo

CANDLE LITANY[^]

We have unwrapped a present each Sunday of Advent with great anticipation for the gifts that God reveals.

We open our hearts as we open the gifts!

(Candles are lit)

And tonight, we celebrate the presence of the Light among us.

We light the Christ Candle as a sign that we will be present with Christ's Light in the world.

What Can I Give Him? Congregation overhead

PRAYER OF PRESENCE[^]

*HYMN *Joy to the World* 318

SCRIPTURE *Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7* OT 638

SPECIAL MUSIC *Go Tell it on the Mountain* Leidzen & Bulla

ANTHEMS *What can I give him
Heavenly Peace* Hayes
Raney

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC *Mary, did you know?* Greer

BRASS INTERLUDE *Carol of the Bells* Arr. Leidzen & Bulla

INVITATION TO OFFERING^{^^} & OFFERTORY PRAYER^{^^^}

OFFERTORY *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring'* arr. Smith & Hustad

GOSPEL READING *Luke 2:1-20* NT 58

*HYMN *The First Noel* 199

MEDITATION

CANDLIGHTING AND HYMN

Silent Night

Insert
Powell

Please remain seated as the ushers begin lighting the candles for worshipers. Only the **unlit** candle should be tilted to receive the light; otherwise hot wax will spill on your clothing. Please do not hold a lit candle near the person in front of you; it is very easy to catch their hair or clothing on fire.

Raise your lit candle high as we sing the last verse. Remain seated for the benediction. Please extinguish your candle at the conclusion of the benediction. As you leave the sanctuary, place extinguished candles in the baskets at the door.

BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Joy to the World* arr. Helman

[^]McFee, Dr. Marcia. *The Worship Design Studio*. www.worshipdesignstudio.com.

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^{^^}Beu, B.J. *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017*. (Abingdon Press: Nashville, TN, 2016). Pg. 272. Used with permission. Adapted.

^{^^^}Bartlett, David L., Barbara Brown Taylor, and Kimberly Bracken Long. *Feasting on the Word: Advent Companion*. (Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, KY, 2014). Pgs. 101. Used with permission.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP IN 2024

Tonight we celebrate the arrival of the baby Jesus. But what happens next?

Jesus shows up in each of our lives over and over, and each time we ask the question, “who are you?” we might just get a different answer. Beginning in January, we will explore a different facet of Jesus each week – liberating him, perhaps, from the ways our language about him has confined him. We’ll consider Jesus as:

January 7: Our Friend - John 15:9-17

January 14: Our Teacher - Matthew 7:24-29
(Pastor Swap with York 1st CoB - Rev. Joel Gibbel)

January 21: Our Savior - Isaiah 43:1-7 and Luke 2:8-14

January 28: The Way - John 14:1-6

February 4: The Presence - Matthew 28:16-20
(Guest Speaker - Sara Haldeman-Scarr)

Everyone is welcome here – to this story of Jesus, a “rediscovery of the Jesus who is liberated from constraint, and whose company releases the possibility of peace, healing, and compassion in our lives and for the world.”*

*quote from the book *Freeing Jesus* by Diana Butler Bass.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING – Gifts for the Christ Child

It is our tradition to celebrate the gift of Jesus through gifts to our neighbors-around the corner and around the globe. This year, with the need for food skyrocketing all over the world, we will split tonight's offering in the following way:

25% to the Columbia Area Food, 25% to the Hempfield Area Food Pantry, and 50% to Global Food Initiative, a Church of the Brethren program that provides and promotes food security to developing countries around the world.

To make an offering: Place your checks or cash in the plate or give online through our website: Mountvillecob.org. Click on the green “Give via Tithe.ly” button and follow the prompts. In the dropdown menu, select the “Christmas Eve offering” option.

Thank you for your generosity as we anticipate together the birth of the Christ Child.

Silent Night

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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."**