

**MOUNTAIN VIEW FELLOWSHIP
Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2020**

PIANO PRELUDE Eric Wimer

WELCOME

SONG FOR CHRISTMAS Praise Team

RELIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES McCrady family

Each Sunday during the Advent season we lit a candle while reading words from the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah lived during a dark time in the life of Israel, as the security, and the very lives of the people were threatened.

Yet in the midst of those dark times Isaiah held out a vision of hope that God had not abandoned his people. "The Lord himself will give you a sign."

"Look, a young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel".

The prophet also declared: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them the light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore."

LIGHTING THE FOUR CANDLES OF THE ADVENT SEASON

SCRIPTURE READINGS Matthew 1:18-21 Daniel Osinkosky
Luke 2:1-7 Juliet Good

READINGS "Twas the Evening of Christmas" by children and youth of Mountain View Fellowship

SPECIAL MUSIC "Go Tell It On the Mountain" Butler family

SCRIPTURES ABOUT DARKNESS AND LIGHT Daniel & Juliet

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was formless and void, and darkness covered the face of the deep. (Gen. 1:1-2)

Then God said, "Let there be light." And there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. (Gen. 1:3-4)

Thus says the Lord: "Do not remember the former things, or consider things of old. I am about to do a new thing." (Isaiah 43:18-19)
"I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. (Isaiah 49:6)

By the tender mercy of God, the dawn from on high will break upon us to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet in the way of peace. (Luke 1:78-79)

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being through him was life, and the life was the light of all people. (John 1:3-4)

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. (John 1:5,9)

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God... The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the lamb. (Rev. 21:2,23)

The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. (Rev. 21:24-25)

MEDITATION ON THE HUMAN SEARCH FOR LIGHT TO OVERCOME THE DARKNESS Wayne Pence

PRAYER OF THANKS FOR THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

SONG FOR CHRISTMAS Praise Team

CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE McCrady family

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness."

On this Christmas Eve we light the Christ candle to show that our waiting is over. Jesus, the Messiah, is born this night!

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE
PRAYER**

Dear God, our waiting is finally coming to an end. We rejoice that on this night your son was born in a humble stable. May we sense the joy and excitement of that wondrous event foretold by prophets, heralded by angels, and witnessed by shepherds. May we open our hearts to receive your most precious gift to us. Amen.

LIGHTING OUR CANDLES

On this special night we celebrate Jesus' birth and proclaim that Jesus, the Light of the World, has been born. He has come to dispel the darkness in our world and in our lives and hearts.

(You may now light your candle in honor of Jesus' birth and watch it light up your darkness and the darkness of this world as we listen to this beloved hymn of Christmas.)

SONG "Silent Night, Holy Night" **Eric Wimer on piano**

CLOSING WORDS

On this special night may we be watchers for Jesus' presence in our midst. Let us be filled with the light and life of the Christ child. Let us be beacons of hope in the darkness and bearers of God's light into our world. Amen.

PIANO POSTLUDE **Eric Wimer**