

A Word About Participating in the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a special covenant meal that Christ gave to His Bride, the Church. **Followers of Jesus** come to this Table to meet with their Lord and Savior by faith, to be renewed and strengthened by Him in their callings and mission as they eat the bread and drink the wine.

If you are not yet a Christian, or if for whatever reason you are not prepared to share in this meal, feel free to simply observe. Consider spending this time in prayer, perhaps using one of the prayers listed below. Reflect on the invitation of Jesus, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst...for my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:35, 40).

Please note, MHC serves wine in the Lord's Supper. We offer wine since it is often a symbol of joy and celebration in Scripture. **Juice is also provided** if you you would prefer that option.

Prayers for Those Not Communing

A Prayer Searching for the Truth: Jesus, You claim to be the way, the truth, and the life, and that no one comes to the Father except by You. If what you claim is true, please guide me and teach me. Amen.

A Prayer of Trust in the Lord Jesus: Jesus, I confess that I am more broken, flawed, and sinful than I had ever before dared to admit. Yet You tell me that I am more loved than I ever dared to hope, and that You accept all who turn to You in simple faith. I trust You for the forgiveness for my sins, and I receive from You now the eternal life that You promise to all who come to You. Amen.

A Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin: Jesus, You know the battle that rages within my heart. Grant that in my battles with sin, I may see in You the fulfillment of all my needs. Give me strength to turn from every false satisfaction to find my ultimate joy in You. Amen.

A Prayer for Children (who have yet to profess faith): Jesus, the Bible tells me that You blessed kids like me. Help me to know who You are and to understand what You have done for me. Amen.

Announcements

Advent Season at Mercy Hill

Advent is a special season in which Christians around the world set apart the four Sundays leading to the celebration of Christmas to reflect upon the miracle of the Incarnation—God becoming man in the person of Jesus, and all that means for us.

This year our theme will be, "The Reason for the Season," as we explore some of the key reasons why Jesus came into the world for us and for our salvation. Advent begins the first Sunday of December.

Christmas Eve Service: December 24th, 10am

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, so make plans now to join us for a Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols. This service is a telling of the story of the Gospel emphasizing God's redemption of the world in Jesus. This service will encourage you and root you more deeply in Jesus, the hope of the world. Bring your friends and family!



December 23, 2023



Welcome!
We're really glad you're here with us today.

Whether you are a Christian seeking to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ, or a skeptic looking for answers, or someone who is struggling to make sense of life and simply looking for a caring community, you are warmly welcome here. We are delighted you came this morning!

God Invites Us Into His Presence To Worship Together

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!”
— Psalm 150:6 —

The Invitation

Advent Passages

Opening Prayer

Songs of Praise & Worship

“And Can It Be”

“King of Kings”

God Graciously Renews Us In Christ Jesus

“Have mercy on me, O God....”
— Psalm 51:1 —

Confession

Mark 1:14-15

A Moment for Silent
Confession & Reflection

The Words of the Gospel

John 6:37-40

Song of Response

“O Come O Come Emmanuel”

God Gives Us His Words Of Eternal Life

*“Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life!”*
— The Gospel of John 6:68 —

**“Jesus is the Reason for the Season --
And so is the World! ”**

John 3:16-17

Sermon Series:

Advent: The Reason For The Season

God Receives Our Offerings

*“I appeal to you..., by the mercies of God, to present
your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable
to God, which is your spiritual worship.”*
— Romans 12:1 —

The Giving of our Offerings and the Song of Response

“Hymn of Heaven”

God Invites Us To Gather Together At The Lord’s Table

*“People will come from the east and west and
north and south, and will take their places
at the feast in the Kingdom of God.”*
— The Gospel of Luke 13:29 —

The Words of Institution

For more on Communion,
please see the back panel.

Songs of Response & Celebration

“Jesus Messiah”

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

God Sends Us Out Into The World With His Blessing

“The Lord bless you and keep you....”
— Numbers 6:24-26 —

The Blessing

2 Corinthians 13:14

Notes: