



Welcome! It is a joy to worship with you today...

In the shadow of Mount Si sits a small country church, wonderfully illuminated by the light of God. We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person with all your complexities, gifts, questions, and challenges. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world. We believe our mission is to serve, reach out and grow in grace. ALL are welcome to join us in this quest.

If you are a first-time guest, a member, or a regular attendee, we are glad you are here!

Guests are encouraged to fill in a welcome card located in the entry to the Sanctuary or pew racks so we can keep in touch or answer any questions you might have. Please place cards in the offering plate or hand them to an usher.

The Lil' Mount Si Wiggle Room is located at the back of the sanctuary. We welcome all children into our wiggle room. We ask that a parent or designated friend or family member stay with the child/children. There are speakers so you can continue to participate in worship.

Pick up a Rainbow Bag for your child (ages 1-5) in the Narthex on the way into worship.

The bags are filled with quiet activities for your child during church service.

If you would like additional information on our programs and ministries, you will find our monthly newsletter and brochures available in the narthex as you enter the building. We are glad to share more information and help you find a place which fits your gifts and affinities in God's ministries here at Mt. Si—or, possibly, your passions will help begin an entirely new ministry at Mt. Si.

Advent One: Rome: A Place of Longing

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Light for the Journey

Guide: We begin our Advent journey toward Bethlehem and the manger with a decree from Rome. Needing more money to build the Roman Empire, Caesar Augustus demands a census so that all who lived under his reign could “contribute” to his expansion of power.

Pastor: Our lives and stories are often shaped by that which is out of our immediate control. This was true in the moment of the Roman decree that would turn into the story of hope for the world. On this first week of Advent, we ask ourselves whether we are placing our hope in the empires of the world, or in the liberating through-line of God’s presence. What are we longing for this Advent, and how does it call us to act with hope? You are invited to rise in body and/or spirit as the first Advent candle is lit.

**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.
We’re on our way, We’re on our way
Dream of the day
When hope holds sway
With all the earth
In all our hearts
We’re on our way
This is the day.**

Reader(s):

The journey begins, and this candle will help light our way.

We are on our way to more hope.

Decrees and decisions affect our world and our lives as they did in Jesus' day.

We are a people who long for Good News.

There are milestones that guide us to a better day.

God's light goes before us, we are not alone.

sung together

We re on our way, We re on our way

Dream of the day

When hope holds sway

With all the earth

In all our hearts

We re on our way

This is the day.

Opening Prayer and Words of Assurance

Pastor: Holy and Living God, we pray for the renewal of our world.

Too often, we let fear or complacency prevent us from
calling out the injustices of our time.

Give us courage for action, even in the midst of our longing.

Call us to a "census of hope." Call us to our senses
so that we may see, hear, know,

the power of your presence with us, Emmanuel.

We pray this in the name of your Son,

Jesus, the Christ, the Hope of Our Lives.

All: Amen.

Let this be a marker of assurance that we are moving in a faithful direction:

God is with us every step of our way toward the Hope of Bethlehem.

Jesus is being born into our lives even now.

The Spirit is transforming us in this place.

The Peace

Pastor: Peace be with you!

All: And also with you.

Pastor: As people forgiven and freed, I invite you to pass the Peace of Christ among you and those worshiping remotely, we are glad you are on the journey with us!

Opening Hymn/Song

*Now the Heaven's Start to Whisper
All Creation Sings #901*

The Place and It's Message

The Children Show Us the Way

"Little Donkey" verse 1 is sung as the children come forward

**Little donkey, little donkey
On the dusty road
Got to keep on plodding onwards
With your precious load.
Been a long time, little donkey
Through the winter's night
Don't give up now, little donkey
Bethlehem's in sight.**

Skit – Week One – Harding Family

First Scripture Reading

Romans 8: 18-25

Lector: Our first lesson comes from Romans the 8th chapter. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the

children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2: 1-3

Pastor: Our Gospel lesson comes from Luke, the 2nd chapter. In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

What We See Changes Us

Guided by Prayer

“Lead Me, Guide Me” (chorus only)

Red Hymnal #768

Lector: We begin our prayer time today remembering that when we need guidance the most, we can turn to God in prayer. Today we are guided by Hope. Let us sing together

**All Singing: Lead me, guide me, along the way.
For if you lead me I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with you.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

Lector: Let us pray: God of Hope,
we come to you today longing for your presence in our lives
and with all those who suffer—in body, mind, or spirit.

*You are invited to share prayers for those in need of healing
& wholeness at this time*

Lector: God of Hope, we come to you today so deeply grateful for celebrations,
triumphs, and even small steps toward the lives we seek
and the world we desire.

You are invited to share prayers of praise & thanksgiving at this time

Lector: Holy God, we know you are near. We know that every step along the way
to Bethlehem in this Advent season is a step closer to renewed life in Jesus, the
Christ. We know that your Spirit resides within us, growing day by day into the
fullness of Hope. In this moment, we pause in silence, marking your presence
with awe and asking you to fill us, guide us, along our journey.

Moment of Silence

Lector: May we live by the prayer you taught us...

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom
come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Offering

*Offering plates are at the back of the sanctuary, as you entered and as you leave, or you are
welcome to make an online gift through our website: www.mtsilutheran.org/onlinegiving*

Pastor: We take a moment to remember that all we have comes from God. We
give thanks for our abundance and offer what we can, trusting that God will take
these gifts and use them for the building up of the kingdom. Thank be to God!

Doxology

[to the tune of "Away in a Manger"]

**Praise God for these gifts that we offer today
and bless them for good in the world, this we pray.
Praise Jesus, the Christ-Child, our Hope and our Stay,
the Spirit, our Keeper, our Guide on the Way.**

Communion Invitation

Pastor: Whether your journeys are by choice or by necessity,
each one requires a moment of pause to nourish body and spirit.

We cannot move forward into new places, into new stories,
without the sustenance that makes life possible.

There is no way to navigate the difficulties that arise on the way
without a connection to the One who gives us life.

Jesus knew this when he gathered the disciples for a meal
that would come to sustain a movement on its way throughout the ages.

And he offers that same meal to us now.

Won't you pause for a while at this table set for you?

Great Thanksgiving

The God of Hope be with you.

All: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth...

...And so, with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**All Singing: Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
By your Spirit, he was born to offer...
... When the Lord Jesus ascended,
he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

**All Singing: All Your works with joy surround You,
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Praising You eternally!**

On the night in which he gave himself up for us...
When the supper was over, he took the cup...

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**All: Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

**All Singing: Always giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving Abba, Christ our Brother,
Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here
and wherever we are on our journeys of life...

...Through your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

All: Amen.

The table is set! All are welcome here.

Distribution of Communion

Communion Songs

*All Who are Thirsty
Hungry (Falling On My Knees)*

We Set Off: A Proclamation for the Continued Journey

Guide: We have checked the signs and markers to make sure we are moving in a faithful direction. With hope, we move on towards Bethlehem, knowing that the Light of Christ shines through the night. We are not alone. The powers that would keep some down and out are not the final word. The story continues, and we will proclaim it in our lives. Hope, not fear, perseveres.

Closing Hymn/Song

“In Christ Alone”

Benediction

Pastor: Go forth, knowing that all the places you encounter contain signs of God’s work among us.

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray,
cast out our fear and draw us near; 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**

**We’re on our way, We’re on our way
Dream of the day
When hope holds sway
With all the earth
In all our hearts
We’re on our way
This is the day.**

Pastor: Keep your senses alert,
your perception wide,
and your heart open
to new discoveries along the way.

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
All: Thanks be to God!

*It was a joy to worship with you today!
Please come next door to the Fellowship Hall
for our Advent Festival!*

Serving Today

Guide: Harding Family
Lector: Jack Boller
Skit Participants: Harding Family
Usher: Janey Benson

Reader: Harding Family
Children's Time Leader: Harding Family
Communion Assistant: Courtney Adams
Sound/AV: Terry A. & Mike B.

Announcements

TODAY Advent Festival following worship. Come for the first week of our special "On the Way to Bethlehem" study, a special coffee hour, crafts and advent wreath making!

TONIGHT Bless this Night Special Worship 6pm worship at SHLC with fellowship to follow. Come early at 5pm to hear from the writers, including Pr. Mark Griffith.

Holly Days, December 7, 5-8pm downtown North Bend – we will once again have a free craft booth and hand out free hot coco and Christmas Eve invitations.

Children & Youth Christmas Party & Graham Cracker House Building Contest, December 8, 3pm hosted at Our Savior Lutheran in Issaquah. This ELF event is open to all our cluster churches and the community. Bring a friend! Didn't get the sign-up link? Ask Pastor for details.

Red Cross Blood Drive, December 10, 10-3pm in the Fellowship Hall. Sign-up @ redcrossblood.org and search for Mt Si Lutheran as a location or use the 98045 zip code.

Christmas Pageant, December 15 following worship here at MSLC

Christmas Concert, December 15, 3pm at Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church. Enjoy the music prepared by the cluster choir, stringed instruments and more! Several Mt Si members are singing in the concert.

Blue Christmas Worship, December 18, 7pm here at MSLC

Christmas Eve Worship, December 24, 7pm & 10pm here at MSLC

Church Contact Information

Main Office Email: mtsilutheran@mtsilutheran.org

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