

**Monte Vista Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**3501 Campus Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87106**

*Live-streamed to our VistaStream YouTube channel*  
*(<https://www.montevista.org/vistastream>)*

***First Sunday of Advent***

**December 1, 2024**  
**10:30am MT**

**Order of Worship**

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Dawn Rosignol

Prelude

*Advent [Tone Poem on Conditor alme siderum]*  
by Kenneth Lowenberg

Paulette McClellan

**Hanging of the Greens**

\*Call to Worship

Jose Apodaca

One: To begin this holy season of Advent, let us prepare this sacred space and ourselves for the birth of Jesus.

**Many: With words for the beginning and provisions for the journey.**

One: With what symbols will we adorn this place?

**Many: Branches of cedar, the tree of excellence and strength.**

One: What other symbols invite us on this journey of preparing for the eternal Christ?

**Many: Garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.**

One: What symbols will serve to prepare us for the coming prophet of Galilee?

**Many: Wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death and resurrection.**

One: Let us be especially aware of God guiding us through this Advent season.

**Many: We are ready to begin, ready to follow where God is leading us.**

\*Hymn

*Deck the Hall*

\*Prayer

Jose

Holy God, we stand at the beginning of our Advent journey with gratitude for the ways that your goodness guides us and transforms us. As we put the final preparations in place, prepare us for the journey of receiving anew your hope, peace, joy, love, and light into our lives. Shine your light on our path so that we will go the way you are preparing for us, the way of encountering the Coming Christ. With hope we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-5, 9-14

Jose

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one

thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of humanity, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a parent's only son, full of grace and truth.

One: A word from God for the people of God. **Many: Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

*We'll Dress the House*  
by Alfred Burt, arr. by Hawley Ades

Vista Bells

### **First Sunday of Advent – Hope**

\*Words for the Beginning of our Advent Journey

Rev. Dawn

\* Opening Prayer

Jose

Affirming God, how often do you speak to us, and how often do we miss it? How often do you whisper blessings over us that we refuse to hear? Open our hearts. Create space in us to not only hear the words of our worship that are spoken, but to believe the good news tucked between them. We are hungry for your wisdom, so speak to us now. With hope and curiosity, we listen. With hope and curiosity, we dare to begin again. Amen.

\*Advent Wreath Lighting Hymn

*Hope, Hope, Hope*

(v 2)

Advent Wreath Lighting & Prayer

Anthony Sanchez's Care Group

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

Jose

But now thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth – everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

One: A word from God for the people of God. **Many: Thanks be to God.**

Prayer Hymn

*Come, O Long-Expected Jesus*

125

(Please share your prayer concerns & joys with Rev. Dawn at [revdawn@montevista.org](mailto:revdawn@montevista.org).)

## Pastoral Prayer &amp; Lord's Prayer (in unison)

**Blessed One, our Father and our Mother. Holy is your name. May your love be embodied in the world. May your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Protect us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For all that we do in your love, and all that your love brings to birth, and the fullness of love that will be, are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Special Music

*We Wait*  
by Ruth Elaine Schram

Vista Voices

## Sermon Text

Luke 1:26-38

Rev. Dawn

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And Gabriel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

One: A word from God for the people of God. **Many: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

*"Words for the Beginning: You Are a Blessing"*

Rev. Dawn

## \*Advent Litany (in unison)

**We believe in a blessing God who calls us Beloved.  
We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary,  
and was also bestowed upon the hemorrhaging woman,  
the poor in spirit, the children, the crowds,  
the Jews, the Gentiles, the faithful and the doubting.  
So in faith, we trust that God's blessing,  
like ripples on the water, forever reaches toward us.  
And with wild hope, we believe  
that because of this blessing, we are covered in love.  
We are more than enough. Thanks be to God.**



## Sharing in Communion and Stewardship

### Invitation to the Table

Ken O'Rourke

(Your tithes & offerings can be given via online donations on [our website](#),  
on the [Givelify app](#), or by mailing your check to the church office. Thank you.)

*Communion Hymn	<i>This Is a Day of New Beginnings</i>	518
Words of Institution		Rev. Dawn
Prayers for the Elements		Ken
Receiving Communion		
Communion Meditation	<i>Ah, Holy Jesus</i>	Paulette, organ Patricia Morrison, cello
Prayer of Thanksgiving		Rev. Dawn
Invitation to the Community of MVCC		Rev. Dawn
*Closing Hymn	<i>When God Is a Child</i>	132 (v 1)
*Announcements		Rev. Dawn
*Benediction		Rev. Dawn
Postlude	<i>Mode de mi</i> by Jean Langlais	Paulette

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Jose Apodaca, Worship Leader

Wally Miller, Sound

Paulette McClellan, Organist/Pianist

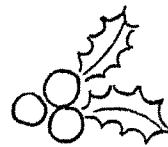
Anthony Sanchez's Care Group, Wreath Lighting

Rev. Dr. Dawn Rosignol, Senior Minister, Preaching & Presiding




# DECK THE HALL

*From the Welsh*




F C Dm C F C F C7 F




1. Deck the hall with boughs of hol-ly,  
2. See the blaz-ing yule be-fore us, Fa la la la la la la la la  
3. Fast a-way the old year pas-ses,

F C Dm C F C F C7 F




'Tis the sea-son to be jol-ly,  
Strike the harp and join the cho-rus, Fa la la la la la la la la  
Hail the new, ye lads and las-ses!

C7 F C F C G7 C7




Don we now our gay ap-par-el,  
Fol-low me in mer-ry meas-ure, Fa la la la la la la la la  
Sing we joy-ous all to-geth-er,

F C Dm C F Bb F Gm F C7 F



Troll the an-cient Yule-tide car-ol,  
While I tell of Yule-tide treas-ure, Fa la la la la la la la la  
Heed-less of the wind and wea-ther.



# Hope, Hope, Hope

♩ = 80

D <sup>F#m</sup>C# Bm D A <sup>Em</sup>G A<sup>9</sup> A<sup>7</sup> D D <sup>F#</sup>

1. Peace, peace, peace— The gift of Christ is peace. We  
 2. Hope, hope, hope— The light of Christ is hope. In  
 3. Love, love, love— The heart of Christ is love. On  
 4. Joy, joy, joy— We praise You, Christ, with joy! Our

Em A<sup>7</sup> D <sup>Dsus D</sup><sub>E F#</sub> <sup>D</sup><sub>A</sub> Em A<sup>7</sup> D <sup>D Dsus D</sup><sub>A G F#</sub> <sup>D</sup><sub>A</sub>

walk with God, our past for - giv - en. All in Him is life and heav - en.  
 all our dark-ness Christ is shin - ing, Lead - ing up - ward, faith re - fin - ing.  
 all who come He pours His pres - ence— Life and love in ho - ly es - sence.  
 peace, our hope, our love and treas - ure, High - est call - ing, deep - est pleas - ure!

D <sup>F#m</sup>C# Bm D A <sup>Em</sup>G A<sup>9</sup> A<sup>7</sup> D

Peace, peace, peace— The gift of Christ is peace.  
 Hope, hope, hope— The light of Christ is hope.  
 Love, love, love— The heart of Christ is love.  
 Joy, joy, joy— We praise You, Christ, with joy!

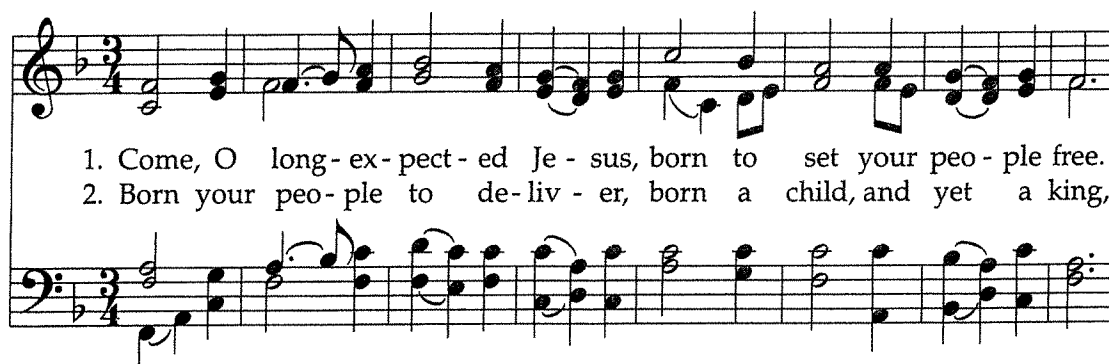
WORDS: Ken Bible  
 MUSIC: Traditional Austrian Melody; arr. by Ken Bible

STILL, STILL, STILL  
 3.6.9.8.3.6.

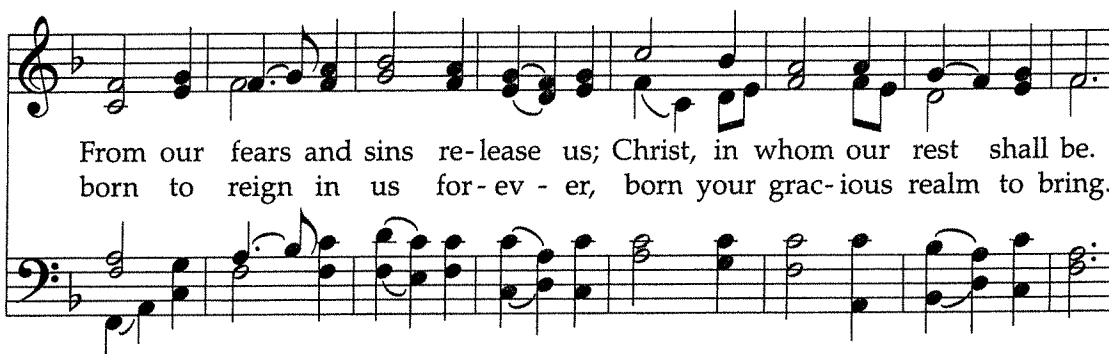
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## Come, O Long-expected Jesus

125



1. Come, O long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to set your peo-ple free.  
2. Born your peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king,



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.  
born to reign in us for-ev-er, born your grac-ious realm to bring.



You, our strength and con-so-la-tion, come sal-va-tion to im-part;  
By your own e-ter-nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a-lone;



dear de-sire of man-y a na-tion, joy of man-y a long-ing heart.  
by your all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to your glo-rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744  
MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

HYFRYDOL  
87.87D

## This Is a Day of New Beginnings 518

*Unison*

1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings,  
 2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,  
 3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,  
 4. In faith we gath - er round the ta - ble

time to re - mem - ber and move on,  
 God's might - y Spir - it, now as then,  
 step from the past and leave be - hind  
 to taste and share what love can do.

time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,  
 can make for us a world of dif - ference,  
 our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,  
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings;

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.  
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.  
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.  
 our God is mak - ing all things new.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1978, rev. 1987  
 MUSIC: Carlton R. Young, 1984

BEGINNINGS  
 98.98



## When God Is a Child

*Unison*

1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
 2. Peace is a ribbon that cir - cles the earth,  
 3. Joy is a song that wel - comes the dawn,  
 4. Love is a flame that burns in our heart.

lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright.  
 giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth.  
 tell - ing the world that the Sav - ior is born.  
 Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part.

*Refrain*

When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be

first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be a - fraid.

WORDS: Brain Wren, 1985  
 MUSIC: Joan Collier Fogg, 1987

MOON BEAMS  
 Irr. w. refrain