

**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>)*

Second Sunday of Advent

**December 8, 2024
10:30am MT**

Order of Worship

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Dawn Rosignol

Prelude

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen
by Johannes Brahms

Paulette McClellan

*Call to Worship

Anne Loveless

One: In a world that is lonely,

Many: we will save a seat for you.

One: In a world that is anxious,

Many: we will light candles against the gloom.

One: In a world that is weary,

Many: we will sing songs of joy and truth.

One: I am not alone.

Many: We are not alone.

One: For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

Many: Light the candles! Sing with joy!

We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.

*Opening Prayer

Anne

Holy God, the words of this world whip around us like a mighty wind.

We are caught up in news reports, in text messages,
in emails and notifications.

We are drowning in updates from the media,
caught off guard by the constant hum of it all.

But here on this bright morning we remember:
you too are speaking. Still the voices around us.

Calm our minds and center our hearts
so that we can hear your words above the wind.

We are leaning closer. We are at the edge of our chairs.

We are beginning again. Speak to us, as only you can. Amen.

*Advent Wreath Lighting Hymn

Peace, Peace, Peace

(v 1)

Scripture Reading

Ruth 1

Anne

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. Then Naomi started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered God's people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So Naomi said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her. So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?" She said to them, "Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty; why call me Naomi when the Lord has dealt harshly with me, and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?" So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

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

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

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Rev. Dawn

Pastoral Prayer & 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

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
arr. by Howard Helvey

Vista Voices

Sermon Text

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Rev. Dawn

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

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

Sermon

"Words for the Beginning: We Can't Go Alone"

Rev. Dawn

*Advent Litany (in unison)

**We believe in a with-us God:
a God who walks with us in the valley,
dances with us on the mountaintop,
sings with us through the night
and rejoices in the morning.
We believe that this with-us God
wired us for relationship,
saying to creation on the very first week,
"Humans should not be alone."
Therefore, in an effort to be who God called us to be,
we strive to live connected, united, and centered.
We believe in the power of community.
We commit to learning each other's names.
We choose to journey with each other, like Ruth with Naomi.
And we remember that no one can go through life alone.
Thanks be to God, for lighting our way.**

Special Music

The Holly and the Ivy
trad. English tune; arr. by Kevin McChesney

Vista Bells

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>Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming</i>	136
Words of Institution		Rev. Dawn
Prayers for the Elements		Ken
Receiving Communion		
Prayer of Thanksgiving		Rev. Dawn
Invitation to the Community of MVCC		Rev. Dawn
*Closing Hymn	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	119
*Announcements		Rev. Dawn
*Benediction		Rev. Dawn
Postlude	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i> arr. by Jeanne Cotter	Paulette

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Anne Loveless, Worship Leader

Wally Miller, Sound

Paulette McClellan, Organist/Pianist  
 Anne Loveless' Care Group, Wreath Lighting  
 Rev. Dr. Dawn Rosignol, Senior Minister, Preaching & Presiding

# Peace, Peace, Peace

TUNE: Still, Still, Still  
Romans 5:1-11

♩ = 80

D Em C# Bm D/A Em A9 A7 D D/F#

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 A7 D Dsus D/A Em A7 D D Dsus D/A

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 Em C# Bm D/A Em A9 A7 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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Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant

1. Sis - ter, let me be your ser - vant, bro - ther,  
 2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, fel - low  
 3. I will weep when you are weep - ing, when you  
 4. When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall  
 5. Broth - er, let me be your ser - vant, sis - ter,

1. let me walk with you; pray that I may  
 2. trav - 'lers on the road. We are here to  
 3. laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your  
 4. find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've  
 5. let me walk with you; pray that I may

1. have the grace to let you be my ser - vant too.  
 2. help each oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.  
 3. joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney thro'.  
 4. known to - geth - er of great love and ag - o - ny.  
 5. have the grace to let you be my ser - vant too.

WORDS: Richard Gillard, 1977, alt.  
 MUSIC: Richard Gillard, 1977; arr. A. Eugene Ellsworth, 1994

THE SERVANT SONG  
 87.87

# 136 Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming

1. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, draw-ing near in  
 2. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, call-ing you to  
 3. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, he will rise up  
 4. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, hope for peace is

ho - ly birth. Ring the bells and sound the trum-pets,  
 serve in deed. See the ones who hurt and suf - fer,  
 from the dead. Lift the cup, of sin for - giv - en;  
 now at hand. Let there be no hes - i - ta - tion,

let your mu - sic fill the earth. Dance and move to  
 hear their cry and act with speed. Set all self - ish  
 bless the host and eat his bread. Mend the ways where  
 walk in faith where life de-mands. Bear the word that

show God's glo - ry; kneel and pause to hear God's word.  
 ways be - hind you. Purge your hearts of sin - ful greed.  
 peace is bro - ken, give your - selves to true Sha - lom.  
 God has giv - en; share the birth that stirs your soul.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and let your songs be heard.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ in you will meet their need.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dwell as one in church and home.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ will come and make you whole.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Unison*

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine  
 3. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,  
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,  
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show,  
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease;

*Refrain Harmony*

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 and death's deep shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice, re - joice!  
 and cause us in her ways to go.  
 fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!