

# Celebration of Worship

\* Congregation is invited to stand PH: Presbyterian Hymnal LH: Lift Up Your Hearts  
Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church CCLI # 1092190

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

### \* OPENING SONG

*Come, Now Is The Time To Worship*

Come, now is the time to worship, come, now is the time to give your heart  
Come, just as you are to worship, come, just as you are before your God  
Come

One day every tongue will confess You are God,  
One day every knee will bow  
Still the greatest treasure remains for those  
Who gladly choose You now

Come, now is the time to worship, come, now is the time to give your heart  
Come, just as you are to worship, come, just as you are before your God  
Come

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives, willingly our knee will bow  
With all our heart, soul, mind, and strength we gladly choose you now.

Come, now is the time to worship, come, now is the time to give your heart  
Come, just as you are to worship, come, just as you are before your God  
Come

### ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING

Rob and Tracy Hall

Advent is the beginning of the church year. The word is derived from the Latin word which means “coming”. Advent is a time of expectant waiting for the celebration of the coming of Christ. Each week, as part of our Advent tradition, we light a candle to prepare our hearts for the light of the world, who was, and is, and is yet to come. This year we celebrate gifts that result from the coming of Christ.

### GIFT OF LOVE

**Speaker:** We relight the candle of hope. For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. *Galatians 5:5*

We relight the candle of peace. May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace! *Psalms 29:11*

We relight the candle of joy. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart. *Psalms 32:11*

**Speaker:** This is the candle of love. Throughout history God has shown us his love. Let us give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his steadfast love endures forever. *Psalms 136:1*

**Speaker:** Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. *Romans 5:5*

**Speaker:** God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. *1 John 4:9*

**Speaker:** I pray that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. *Ephesians 3:16-18*

**All:** May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope.

### WORSHIP IN SONG

*It Came Upon The Midnight Clear*

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King":  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still  
their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever circling years comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

### CREATIVE KIDS PRESENTATION

### INVITATION TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

### \* DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### CHILDREN’S DISMISSAL TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Kindergarten through 2nd grade go to Sprouts Room  
3rd through 5th grade go to Saplings Room  
Youth (6th-12th grade) are welcome to remain in worship or join the Saplings*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

### SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 1:3-7  
John 3:16-21

### MESSAGE

**“THE GIFT OF LOVE”**  
*Pastor Dan Holland*

### SONG

*Come Thou Love Divine*

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

### BENEDICTION

*Soon and Very Soon*

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!  
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!  
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We’re going to see the King!

No more crying there, we are going to see the King!  
No more crying there, we are going to see the King!  
No more crying there, we are going to see the King!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We are going to see the King!

No more dying there, we are going to see the King!  
No more dying there, we are going to see the King!  
No more dying there, we are going to see the King!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We are going to see the King!

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!  
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!  
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We’re going to see the King!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

<i>Leading Our Worship Today</i>		
Pastor		Rev. Dan Holland
Director of Music Ministry		Joshua VerHalen
Liturgist		Ron Vander Stoep

# WELCOME TO MVPC!

## WELCOME TO MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

We are so glad to have you worshipping with us. We are a warm, inquisitive, servant-oriented community of faith and we hope you sense God's Spirit among us. Please fill out the Friendship Register when it is passed to you. If you are a new visitor, please include your contact information so that we may send you news of our upcoming events. You are invited to stop by the Espressbyterian for a delicious treat! If you have any questions about MVPC, please speak to any of the Elders wearing blue nametags. *Again, welcome!*

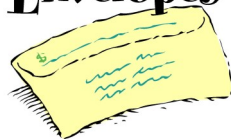
### TODAY @ MVPC ...

- 9 to Noon Nursery Care
- 9:00 ADULT CLASSES
- The Bible Class**—Join teacher Bob Rauch for a discussion-based study the "Truly, Truly" sayings of Jesus in the Conference Room. No prior Bible experience is required.
- 10:30 Worship Service
- Nursery Care and Sunday School
- 11:45 Fellowship Time: Please stay to enjoy treats and good conversation!

### REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- Small Groups:** Call the church to get connected!
- Bible Study:** Studying the book of Genesis Tuesdays at 10 a.m.
- Prayer Group:** 10:15 a.m. on Tuesdays in the Library
- Family Night:** Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- Youth Group:** 3rd Sunday of the month from Noon to 1:30 p.m.
- Chancel Choir:** Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.
- Glorify!:** Wednesdays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Senior Shepherds:** 3rd Tuesdays @ noon. Mark your calendar!
- Knitting Club:** 4th Wednesday of the month at noon
- Women's Fellowship:** Fourth Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
- Men's Breakfast:** Fourth Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

## Offering Envelopes



Giving Envelopes for 2017 are now available in the narthex. If you don't find yours, please talk to Leslie Braun or contact the church office.



**We're on the web!**  
[www.MountVernonPres.org](http://www.MountVernonPres.org)  
Contact the church office:  
360-424-7675  
Email: [mvpc@MountVernonPres.org](mailto:mvpc@MountVernonPres.org)

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24, 7:00 p.m.

Followed by our traditional Wassail Bowl (Spiced Cider) and potluck Christmas Cookies! Bring your favorite Christmas Cookie or Candy to share ... you might just find a new favorite recipe!

## Attention MVPC Families!



Looking for something fun to do with the kids? Come to our Christmas Cookie Decorating Party and dinner this Thursday and a Kids afternoon Art Party to create more art for the church hallways on Thursday, December 29. Talk to Rebecca for more information and to RSVP.



## CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Christmas Day service on Sunday, December 25th will be a service of Carols, Readings, and Communion. We will be lighting the 1st Christmastide candle. It is a family friendly service so bring your family and friends. All of your Christmas company is welcome to attend this special Sunday service. **Christmas Day, 10:30 a.m.**  
**We are looking for a number of readers for this service.**  
**Please talk to Pastor Dan to volunteer.**

## Christmas Baskets

Thank you to all who helped contribute to the Christmas Baskets! You all provided loads of presents to brighten many children's faces on Christmas morning. We packed hundreds of pounds of food for delicious meals and delivered them to the families yesterday.



## NEW YEARS DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, January 1st we will have our regular worship at 10:30. We are continuing our Christmastide series with "The Gift of Redemption".



# Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

Growing Followers of Christ since 1902

1511 East Broadway Street  
Mount Vernon, WA 98274  
(360) 424-7675  
[www.MountVernonPres.org](http://www.MountVernonPres.org)

10:30 Worship

December 18, 2016



## The Gift of Love

## Our Vision Statement

**E**ncounter The Hope  
of the living God through Jesus Christ  
**E**ngage One Another  
in authentic friendship  
**E**mbrace The World  
with the heart and hands of Jesus