



Isaiah prophesied that God's salvation purposes would begin with a small shoot coming from a tree stump. There, in a seemingly small and unnoticeable way, God would begin his purposes for saving the world. During the season of Advent, we once again focus our attention upon God's gracious incarnation through his son, Jesus Christ. It is a time to reflect on the unique way that God decided to come into our world. God did not come down to our world with a big and powerful display that we, in our culture, love so much. Rather, as Henri Nouwen states, "Our salvation comes from something small, tender and vulnerable; something hardly noticeable. God, who is the creator of the universe, comes to us in smallness, weakness and hiddenness."

During Advent, we are reminded to look for God in all of the small and seemingly insignificant happenings of life. The smile of a child, the generosity of a stranger, the melody of a song being sung in praise to God and gestures of love by a friend can all be reminders of God's presence here with us. As we worship this Advent season, I pray that we will have our eyes and ears attentive to the myriad of ways Christ comes to us. Perhaps, through our worship, we may meet him anew during this season.

Blessings, Steve

**Please join us on Wednesday nights during Advent, December 6, 13 and 20,
as Pastor Steve facilitates, "The Thrill of Hope" by Andy Stanley**

Do you remember as a child what it was like enduring those days before Christmas? It was the anticipation that made Christmas, Christmas. That same dynamic is what made the first Christmas so extraordinary. For generations, men and women had been anxiously waiting for the birth of their Messiah, with no assurance that they would live to see him.

And like us, they probably wondered, "Is this really going to happen? After all, God has been silent for years. Has he forgotten about us?"

Do you have those same doubts? Do you feel like God even knows you exist? Do you wonder if it's worth it to follow Christ? In *The Thrill of Hope*, Andy Stanley makes the case that *the Christmas story is your story*.

Sunday, December 3...Traditional—9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Contemporary—9:00 a.m.

We light our first Advent candle: **"HOPE"**

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:67-79

"The Songs of Advent" Sermon Series

Sermon: **"Zechariah: A Song of Faith"**

4:00 p.m.—Sounds of the Season Concert

Come, begin your Advent season with beautiful traditional Christmas music provided by Mountain View musicians.

(Free-will offering will be collected)

Childcare provided in the Nursery. Please contact Kerry Kehoe if you are in need of childcare:

kerryk@mtviewpres.org

Sunday, December 10...Traditional—9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Contemporary—9:00 a.m.

We light our second Advent candle: **"PREPARATION"**

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:13-14

"The Songs of Advent" Sermon Series

Sermon: **"A Song of Peace"**

Carols Around the Table.....2:00 & 3:30 p.m.

All New—An event for all ages—Celebrate the Advent season with your Mountain View family with Christmas carols, musical ensembles, hot cocoa, cookies and a visit from Santa! Purchase your tickets in the courtyard.

Sunday, December 17...Traditional—9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

"No Room"

Presented by the Mountain View Sanctuary Choir with Kirk & Shelly Sexton

Contemporary—9:00 a.m. in Meredith Hall

We light our third Advent candle: **"JOY"**

Sunday, December 24...10:00 a.m.

One Sunday morning service in the courtyard.

We will all be together for a special time of worship.

Wear a sweater and invite your neighbors!

We light our fourth Advent candle: **"LOVE"**

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:46-55

"The Songs of Advent" Sermon Series

Sermon: **"A Song of Trust"**

CHRISTMAS EVE.....Sunday, December 24

4:00 p.m...Children's Christmas Living Nativity & Family Worship Celebration in the Sanctuary

5:30 & 7:00 p.m..."Services of Carols & Candles" in the Sanctuary

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:29-32

We light the candle of "Christ."

Pastor Kirk Sexton preaching at 5:30 p.m.

Pastor Steve Beard preaching at 7:00 p.m.

"A Song of Hope"

The Services will conclude with candles and the singing of "Silent Night" & "Joy to the World."

5:30 pm...Contemporary "Service of Carols & Candles" in Meredith Hall

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:29-32

Pastor Steve Beard preaching

Sermon: **"A Song of Hope"**

Music by the Praise Team

9:00 p.m..."Service of Carols, Candles & Communion" in the Sanctuary

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:29-32

Music by Alexis and Earl Hazell, opera musicians.

We light the candle of "Christ" and Pastor Kirk Sexton will preach **"A Song of Hope."**

The Service will conclude with candles and the singing of "Silent Night" & "Joy to the World."

Sunday, December 31...9:00 a.m. Contemporary & and 9:30 a.m. Traditional services

No Sunday School, Adult Ed. or Youth Groups—Resume January 7

