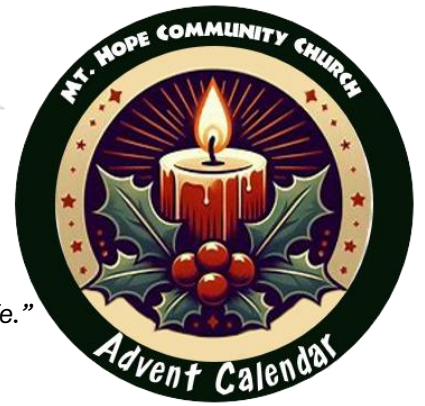


Advent Devotional - Day 21

2025

December 21st



Scripture: John 3:16 Verse: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

Reflection:

At the heart of Christmas is a love that moves us, not a tidy idea to admire from afar. God gives himself in the person of Jesus in a way that changes the ground beneath us. It reaches into brokenness, crosses barriers, and offers a real path back to one another. That gift is decisive: it repairs what is torn and opens a way for people to live differently together.

This gift shapes everything we do as a church. Loving like Christ means choosing others before convenience, sharing what costs us something, and making space for people who are usually left out. It's not about polished programs or clever outreach lines; it's about steady, sacrificial presence — lending a hand, listening without rushing, and investing our time and resources where healing is needed most.

In Pittsburgh that looks like loving across divides in our neighborhoods, serving people whose needs are obvious and those whose struggles are quiet, and telling the story of reconciliation honestly and warmly. The gospel asks us to be wide in welcome and deep in sacrifice so that lives can be mended and communities can know the kind of peace that only this love makes possible.

Prayer:

God, teach our hands to give where it hurts, our feet to go where welcome is thin, and our mouths to tell a story that heals. Pour out the courage to sacrifice comfort for neighbor, and the grace to receive those we serve as friends, not projects. Shape Mt. Hope into a place of wide welcome and steady presence so your reconciling work is known in Penn Hills. Amen.

Today's Mt Hope Mindful Response Challenge:

Re-evaluate how we measure success. Learn to evaluate ministry success by depth of relationships built and lives changed over time rather than just by attendance numbers or quick outputs.



12106 Frankstown Road
Penn Hills, PA 15235

412-793-0227
mthope@mthopepcusa.org