Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle (Love)

Reader One: Isaiah said that the Lord spoke to the king and said, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven" (Isaiah 7:11 NRSV). But when the king refused, God would not be stopped. "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14 NRSV).

Reader Two: God wants us to know, even when we aren't sure ourselves. God wants us to experience God's presence, even when we think we can handle life on our own. God sends us signs of God's presence with us; all we need to do is keep our eyes open and look.

Reader Three: We light these candles, the candle of Joyous Hope, of Proclaimed Peace, of deep Everlasting Joy, and today of presence that speaks of Love, as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism Red UM Hymnal **#39**

Kiké Luciano Miller
Lucy Shelley Miller

"God's Child" *(Congregation Sings)* Holland and Blodgett

1. This is the day that
one more child
Is gonna be brought up
in God's own way.

Refrain:
He's your brother, my sister,
God's child, everyone's own.

2. Guard this child with
love and care
And show him that God's
always there.

3. Surround these parents
with our love
Peace and joy to them assure.

The Word for Children **Children Are Invited to Come Sit in the Front*

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer *Rev. Thai-Erwin*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Anthem "Ave Maria" arr. Jacques Arcadelt
Section Leaders; Kirk Averitt, Director

Scripture Reading: Psalm 80:1-7 *Elle Quismorio, Lay Reader*
Romans 1:1-7
Leader: The Word of God for the people of God
People: Thanks be to God

***Hymn of Preparation** "Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here" (vs. 1-3)
Red UM Hymnal **#579**

Sermon "Powerful Love" *Rev. Thai Erwin*

Anthem Response "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" by Paul Manz
Israel Segura, Garrison Holder, Kirk Averitt, and Kenneth Landaverde

Trek to the Tree

Announcements

***Closing Hymn** "That Boy-Child of Mary" Red UM Hymnal #**241**

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** **"**Peace, Peace/Silent Night"

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin, mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Postlude "O Come, All Ye Faithful" by Oakley and Reading, arr. S. Calderone
Franklyn Shen, Piano

**The congregation standing, if able.*

Special thanks to our Section Leaders: Susan Holder, Carolyn Noonchester, Israel Segura, Garrison Holder, Kenneth Landaverde, and Kirk Averitt, Director.

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Alive!

You may now enter worship in the Sanctuary through the double doors off the parking lot and check-in is not needed. Attendance pads are now back in the pews.

Masks are not required but are strongly recommended inside. And, a reminder for everyone to wear their name tags and return them after worship to the basket by the exit.

December 24, Christmas Eve:

Family Service with Nativity Pageant (5:00pm)
Traditional Candlelight Service (9:00pm)
Communion Service in the Chapel ending at Midnight (11:00pm)

December 25, Christmas Day:

Children's Blessing of the Toys (bring one toy to be blessed)
and kids are invited to wear their pjs! (10:00am)

Childcare will not be available on Christmas Eve, December 24. Also, no childcare and no Sunday School on Christmas Day, December 25, and none on New Year's Day, January 1, 2023.

Our annual **Alternative Christmas Market** concludes today in Jordan Hall after the 10 AM service. You can also shop from home and send or drop off your shopping list and the appropriate cards will be returned to you until December 20. We are pleased that Heavenly Treasures will again offer their craft goods from around the world. Heavenly Treasures mission is to help craft people around the world and 100% of the sales are returned to the artisans. This year we are featuring three groups who help people locally (Family Promise, Union Station Homeless Services in Pasadena and SGV Habitat for Humanity) and two groups who help people here in the states and around the world (Church World Service and Heifer Project). Come and visit the market and find meaningful gifts that give twice! First to your family and friends and then to those who are blessed by your gifts both here and around the globe.

The Church Office will be closed December 23 through January 3. all Pledges, Offerings, and Contributions must be submitted by Sunday, December 25th to be counted for your 2022 Giving.

Next week's newsletter will be the last one for 2022. We are dark the last week of December and the first week of January each year. So, there will not be a newsletter the week of December 26, 2022, or January 2, 2023. Newsletters will resume the week of January 9, 2023. Be sure to turn in articles to the office by 10am this Monday, December 19, 2022, to be in next week's newsletter. Ldoran@cgsum.org is back up and running!

Women's Book Group - The new year will find the group discussing Clark and Division. Join them on January 4, 2023, at noon in the church library.

Flower Chart -Sign up for altar flowers by calling the church office, 626-447-2181, to give flowers "in honor of" or "in memory of" loved ones (or in celebration of an anniversary, birthday, special event or accomplishment). The cost of the flowers is now $60 (payable to "Church of the Good Shepherd"). Please mail the check to the church and write "Altar Flowers" on the memo line. Or you may pay for flowers online through the church website. The church office will place your order with ZuZu's Petals of Arcadia and have the personalized message announced in church by Pastor Eva on the appropriate Sunday as well as in the Sunday bulletin and the following week's newsletter. After the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service that Sunday, you may take your flowers home with you or let us know and we will have them in the church office on Monday morning after 9:00 a.m. Thank you for helping to beautify our worship center.

Christmas Greeting Tree - Share a Christmas greeting with your church friends and put a card on our Christmas Greeting Tree in Jordan Hall.

Ministers: Members of the Congregation
Resident Bishop: Bishop Grant J. Hagiya
District Superintendent: Siosaia Tuitahi
Pastor: Eva Thai-Erwin
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry: Franklyn Shen
Director of Music Ministries: Stephen Cook
Director of the Good Shepherd Children's Center: Linda Brown

Church of the Good Shepherd Mission:
At Church of the Good Shepherd, God calls us to welcome all to a vibrant community on a continuing journey of Faith, Growth, Justice, and Service in the image of Christ.

Church of the Good Shepherd
United Methodist

400 West Duarte Road, Arcadia, California 91007 - (626) 447-2181
www.cgsum.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Third Sunday of Advent
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
Trek to the Tree

Sunday, December 18, 2022 10:00 a.m.

Broadcast Live to Facebook/CGSUM and to CGSUM.ORG

As we prepare for worship, let us be in prayer and meditation.
Please "Check In" on social media, then set all electronic devices to the silent mode.

Prelude "Silent Night" by Mohr and Gruber, arr. F. Mantooth
Franklyn Shen, Piano

The Chimes

Introit "O Come, O Come, Emanuel" *Section Leaders*

Welcome and Greeting *Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin*

Passing the Peace

***Call to Worship** *(By Nancy Townley, Worship Connection)* *Elle Quismorio, Lay Reader*

One: We are always looking for evidence that God is with us.

Many: That sign is in the One to come--the One that God is sending.

One: We want to know for sure that everything is in God's care.

Many: And so we cry to the heavens in our distress. Our cries are heard! God is responding in love and hope.

One: Let us come before God with expectant hearts and spirits!

Many: Let us be ready to receive the blessed gift of the Savior. AMEN.

***Opening Hymn** "Gather Us In" Black Songbook, The Faith We Sing **#2236**