Church of the Good Shepherd
United Methodist

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
4th Sunday in Advent and Trek to the Tree

Sunday, December 22, 2024 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 silent mode.
Remember to sign the attendance pad.

Prelude "What Child is This" arr. Vince Guaraldi
Franklyn Shen, Piano

The Chimes

Introit "Hark, the King is Born" arr. J. L. Clark
Youth Choir; Janice Clark, Director

Welcome and Greeting *Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin*

Passing the Peace

***Call to Worship** *Isabelle Chan and Morgan Noonchester, Lay Readers*

Leader #1: Children of God, the arrival of the Promised One is almost here!
People: We wait as people of God's promise.
Leader #2: The message of the prophets call to us today.
People: We listen as people of God's promise.
Leader #1: The acts of Mary and Elizabeth guide our paths of faithfulness.
People: We follow as people of God's promise.
Leader #2: This is the message God's prophets, Mary and Elizabeth bore that we continue to carry today.
People: We celebrate as people of God promise. Thanks be to God!

***Opening Hymn** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *(vs. 1-4)* Red UM Hymnal **#211**

The Word for Children **Children are invited to come sit in the front.*

**The congregation standing, if able.*

Anthem "Cradle Lullaby" by Hollander
Youth Bells; Carolyn Noonchester, Director

Advent Wreath: Lighting of the Love Candle *Youth Council*

Reader 1: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah . . . from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day." (Michah 5:2). Today we receive Christ, the one who came to fulfill God's promise to the world.

Reader 2: We light this candle of Love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

Congregation: God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

Anthem "Fum, Fum, Fum" arr. David Shaler
Youth Choir; Janice Clark, Director; Franklyn Shen, Accompanist

Scripture Lesson *Isabelle Chan and Morgan Noonchester, Lay Readers*

Micah 5:2-5a
*Luke 1:39-45
Leader: The Word of God for the people of God
People: Thanks be to God

***Hymn of Preparation** "Light the Advent Candle" TFWS Black Songbook **#2090**

Sermon Message "The Messengers of Advent: Mary and Elizabeth" *Rev. Thai-Erwin*

Trek to the Tree Bringing Our Christmas Offerings Forward

Offertory Prayer and Lord's Prayer

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.

Announcements *Rev. Thai-Erwin*

***Closing Hymn** "Angels We Have Heard on High" UM Red Hymnal **#238**

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** "Peace, Peace/Silent Night" *Rick and Sylvia Powell*

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** "Joy To This Jazzy World" by Handel/ arr. Michael Sorg
Franklyn Shen, Piano

**The congregation standing, if able.*

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Alive!

Christmas Eve Family Pageant We invite all children ages 3 and up to participate in the Christmas pageant on Tuesday, December 24th, 2024 at 5:00pm. We will have one rehearsal today that will go from 11:15am - 1:00pm (lunch will be included).

Three **Christmas Eve Services** will be held again this year. They are: The **Family Nativity Pageant at 5:00 pm** in the Sanctuary; the **Traditional Service with Candlelight Closing at 9:00** pm in the Sanctuary; and the **Chapel Service with Candlelight Closing in the Courtyard at 11:00 pm.**

Come to the **Christmas Hymns Sing Service! Sunday, December 29th.** We will join our voices in singing the familiar hymns that continue the celebration of Christ's birth. Dress up in your Christmas sweaters, shirts, ties, socks!

The **Women's Book Group** will resume meeting again on **January 8th, 2025, at 11:30 am** and discus the latest selection, *The God of the Woods.*

Sarah Circle is meeting on **Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.** All women of the church are welcome. We will be discussing programs for the year.

Children's Center Dine Out Fundraise at Blaze Pizza, Wednesday, January 15th! Come out and support our pre-school and treat yourself to a made-to-order pizza. Blaze is located at 815 West Naomi Ave., Unit C in the southeast side of the Vons parking lot. Details in the flyer for ordering online or through their app.

United Women in Faith/Sarah Circle is having a **Panera Fundraiser** to support missions on **Thursday, January 23rd.** The location is 600 West Huntington Dr., Monrovia. There will be a flyer with details soon.

SCAM Alert! Be cautious! Delete any s**pam** or **fake emails and texts** from hackers impersonating Pastor Eva or any church staff. Pay attention to the sender's email address, which will not match the real one. If you are unsure about an email you have received. please contact the church office.

Remember to send your articles, announcements, etc. to **The Word** editor, Stephanie Shen at cgsarcadianewsletter@gmail.com by 3:00 pm Fridays. And for **Master Calendar** requests or changes, please contact Carolyn Noonchester at cgsmastercalendar@gmail.com and please allow time for response.

LOOKING AHEAD!

- Dec. 24th — Christmas Eve Services
  Family Nativity Pageant (5pm)
  Sanctuary Traditional with Candlelight Closing (9pm)
  Chapel w/Candlelight Closing in the Courtyard (11pm)
- Dec. 29th — Christmas Hymns Sing Service (Sunday 10am)
- Jan. 5th — New Year Lunch and Un-Decking of the Halls after Worship (11:30am)

Ministers: Members of the Congregation
Resident Bishop: Bishop Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank
District Superintendent: Rev. Moonyoung Lee
Pastor: Rev. 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.