Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist

TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 2025



Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist

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

December 24, 2025 9:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Prelude "Duo in Bb for Violin and Viola, KV 424 Mvt 1. Adagio-Allegro" by W.A. Mozart
Mana Tatsuki, Violin; Sam Tatsuki, Viola

Introit "Come, Promised One" John D. Beckerg
Chancel Choir; Kirk Averitt, Director

Welcome and Greeting *Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin*

Call to Worship *Chris Holder, Lay Reader*

One: Almighty God, we have walked in the darkness but have seen a great light.

Many: For a child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

One: Almighty God, we have waited for Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love to shine in the darkness.

Many: For in our hearts, your light will blaze forth to guide all your people to you.

One: Almighty God, we welcome the child who became the Wonderful Counselor, the Prince of Peace, the Good Shepherd.

Many: For he will rule with justice and righteousness forevermore!

***Opening Hymn** "Angels from the Realms of Glory" **UMH #220**

Lighting the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love *The Ostry Family*

Reader: Once God's plan was a mystery, hidden from our sight. Now God has disclosed what was kept secret and he has brought it out into the light. May we see more clearly the glory of God in Christ and proclaim God's steadfast love forever.

Reader: "With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens" (Psalm 89:1b-2).

Reader: We light these four candles. One for Hope. One for Peace. One for Joy. One for Love. These candles will show the way, making the darkness bright as God's day.

Congregation: **Lord, in the season of anticipation that has led to celebration, we are so thankful for these gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love given to the world. May they be reminders for us of your presence in our lives and may they continue to lead us out of the darkness to the light of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Pastoral 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.

Anthem "Cradle Lullaby" Hollander
Carillon Ringers; Carolyn Noonchester, Director

Old Testament Isaiah 9:2-7 *Chris Holder, Lay Reader*

***Hymn of Preparation** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" **UMH #230**

***Gospel Lesson** Luke 2:1-14 *Chris Holder, Lay Reader*

Choir Anthem "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" arr. Marianne Forman
Chancel Choir; Kirk Averitt, Director; Mana Tatsuki, Violin

Sermon "Love Came Down at Christmas" *Rev. Thai-Erwin*

Lighting of the Christ Candle *Rev. Thai-Erwin*

Christmas is here! Our Advent wreath is complete. Tonight we light the Christ Candle, reminding us that He is the light of the world, the center of our lives, the shining beacon of hope for all creation.

Gracious God, we thank you for the light of Christ which shines brightly. May this light shine in our lives so that people around us might see your glory, Amen.

Anthem "O Holy Night" *Susan Holder, Soloiist*

Passing the Light of Christ

The light will travel from the Christ Candle to the ends of the rows. Please remain seated. Ushers will bring the light to you. Hold the lit candle upright at all times.

***Hymn with the Light** "Silent Night/Peace, Peace" *Rick and Sylvia Powel*

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.

***Benediction** *Rev. Thai-Erwin*

***Closing Hymn** "Joy to the World" *(v. 1)* **UMH #246**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Postlude "Andante Grazioso con Variazioni " by W.A. Mozart
Mana Tatsuki, Violin; Sam Tatsuki, Viola

Christmas Offering Envelopes are located in the narthex next to the Offering box in the Sanctuary entrance. Please remember to sign the attendance pad.

Thank you to all who contributed toward the beautiful poinsettias in our Sanctuary this Christmas season! They may be picked up after the 9 PM Christmas Eve service or on December 26, noon – 2 PM, west door of the church. With much appreciation, the remaining flowers will be delivered to our homebound members.

The Church Office is closed and will reopen Monday, January 5, 2026.

Merry Christmas!

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 Ministry: 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.