Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist

TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 2023



Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist
400 West Duarte Road, Arcadia, California 91007 - (626) 447-2181 - www.cgsum.org

December 24, 2023 9:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE

PREPARATION AND WELCOME

Prelude "What Shall Come?" arr. Smith
"Passacaglia" arr. Handel-Halveorsen
Mana Tatsuki, Violin; Sam Tatsuki, Viola; Stephen Cook, Piano

Introit "What Is this Lovely Fragrance" by Healy Willan
Chancel Choir; Kirk Averitt, Director

Welcome and Greeting *Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin*

Call to Worship *Chris Holder, Lay Reader*

One: Come, faithful watchers, and behold, your salvation is here!
Many: We greet the Wondrous Light, our Messiah, Christ the Lord.

One: We have waited and watched, longing for the fulfillment of our shocking hope.
Many: We have waited and watched, longing for the just peace to reign among us.

One: We have waited and watched, longing for the source of our fierce joy.
Many: We have waited and watched, longing to encounter the love that transforms us.

One: That hope, peace, joy and love is now here among us.
Many: First, as a babe in a manger, then as a teacher, a friend, and our Savior; the wondrous light of the world. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" **UMH #224**

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 "I Wonder as I Wander" arr. Howland
Carillon Ringers; Carolyn Noonchester, Director; Stephen Cook, Piano

CELEBRATING THE WORD

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

***Gospel Lesson** Luke 2:1-11

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

Message "A Love That Transforms" *Rev. Thai-Erwin*

Anthem Response "What Child is This" arr. John Fenstermaker
Chancel Choir; Kirk Averitt, Director; Mana Tatsuki, Violin

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Hymn **"O Come, All Ye Faithful"** ***(vs. 1 & 2)*** **UMH #234**

Candle Liturgy & Lighting *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, Soprano*
Section Leaders

SENDING FORTH

***Benediction**

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

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.

***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. Please hold the lit candle upright at all times and keep the candle lit until you exit the service. Do Not blow out your candle. At the exit, there will be buckets of water for you to extinguish your candle.

Postlude "Minuet Noel" arr. Smith
Mana Tatsuki, Violin; Sam Tatsuki, Viola; Stephen Cook, Piano

Tonight's violinist and violist are generously funded by the Pauline Poindexter Memorial Fund.

Please remember to sign the attendance pad.

Masks are not required but are strongly encouraged.

Thank you to everyone who ordered a poinsettia to help beautify our worship centers at this special time of the year. If you purchased a plant, or had one ordered in your honor, you may pick it up following this Worship Service. Plants which are not picked up will be given to our homebound church community on December 26.

Please remember the Church in your will.

The Church Office is closed and will reopen Monday, January 8, 2024.

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.