Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist

CANDLES IN THE COURTYARD
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 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Chapel Candlelight Service

Attendance Cards and Christmas Offering Envelopes are in the pew pockets and may be placed in the Offering Place during the Offering Time.

Prelude "What Child is This?" *Stephen Cook, Director of Music*

The Chimes

Introit **"**Rise Up Shepherds and Follow" American Spiritual
Susan Holder, Soloist

Welcome and Greeting *Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin*

Call to Worship *Chris Holder*

One: Lord, with joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people.
Many: We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth.

One: Lord, quiet our hearts so that we may experience this holy time.
Many: We see the light that shines in the darkness and hear the angels sing in the stillness.

All: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to all." Amen

***Opening Hymn** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" *(vs. 1-4)* **UMH #234**

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer *(Unison)*

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 "Lullaby" Randall Thompson
Susan Holder, Soloist

Lighting the Candles of Hope and Peace
Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2-7
***Hymn** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" **UMH #230**
Reflection "A Light that Shines for Hope and Peace" *Rev. Thai-Erwin*

Lighting the Candles of Joy and Love
***Scripture Reading** Luke 2:1-7
***Hymn** "What Child Is This" **UMH #219**
Reflection "A Light that Shines for Joy and Love"

Lighting the Christ Candle
***Scripture Reading** Luke 2:8-20
***Hymn** "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" **UMH #240**
Reflection "A Light that Shines for Us"

Anthem Response "Gesu Bambino" Pietro Yon
Susan Holder, Soloist

Reception of Our Christmas Offering

***Christmas Doxology** "Angels We Have Heard on High" *(vs. 1 & 2)* **UMH #238**

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria,
in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria,
in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Passing the Light of Christ

We will now travel into the courtyard to conclude our service. When everyone is outside, the light will travel from the Christ Candle around our circle as we pass the light of Christ to one another and sing "Joy to the World" Please hold the lit candle upright and only tilt the unlit candle to be lit from the person next to you.

***Hymn** "Joy to the World" **UMH #246**
(See next page for lyrics.)

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.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy.

***Benediction in the Courtyard**

**Congregation standing, if able.*

Announcements!

Please join us on regular Sunday mornings for Worship Services at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Sunday Nursery Care of infants and toddlers and Sunday School of Children and Youth is offered Sunday mornings during worship.

The Church office and the Good Shepherd Children's Center will be closed through the Christmas and New Year's holidays and will both reopen on Monday, January 8, 2024. The next church newsletter will go to print on that day. In case of emergencies during this time, please call Pastor Eva directly or email PastorEva@cgsum.org.

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.