Church of the Good Shepherd
United Methodist

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

December 24, 2022 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve
Candles in the Courtyard

Centering Meditation

"Let us have music for Christmas…Sound the trumpet of joy and rebirth;
Let each of us try, with a song in our hearts, To bring peace to all on earth."
Mildred L. Jarrell

Prelude "What Child is This?" arr. Minsky
Stephen Cook, Organ

The Chimes

Introit "Rise Up and Follow" Traditional
Kirk Averitt, Chancel Choir Director; Sue Holder, Soprano

Welcome and Greeting *Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin*

Call to Worship Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7

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

Pastoral Prayer

Unison Prayer

Almighty God, you have favored us with the greatest gift ever given--your only begotten Son, light of true light, God of true God. May we never take this your gift for granted; may our songs of praise never fade, and may we treasure it in our hearts always and forever. Bless all of us here gathered in worship as well as our loved ones at home. May peace and joy ring in our hearts and reverberate through our communities tonight in the name of Jesus the new-born King. Amen.

Anthem "A Manger Carol" arr. Dale Wood
Kirk Averitt, Chancel Choir Director

Lighting the Candles of Hope and Love

***Gospel Reading #1** Luke 2:1-7 *Stephenson Holder*
***Hymn** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" *(vs. 1 & 2)* **UMH 230**
Message "The Witness of the Holy Family"

Lighting the Candles of Joy and Peace

***Gospel Reading #2** Luke 2:8-14 *Stephenson Holder*
***Hymn** "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" *(vs. 1-2)* **UMH 240**
Message "The Witness of the Angels"

Lighting the Christ Candle

***Gospel Reading #3** Luke 2:15-20 *Stephenson Holder*
***Hymn** "What Child Is This" *(vs. 1-2)* **UMH 219**
Message "The Witness of the Shepherds"

Anthem Response "There's Still My Joy" Manchester, Chapman, Rollings
Sue Holder, Soprano

Receiving of the Candles

***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!

The Prayer After Receiving and 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.

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 sing "Silent Night." Please hold the lit candle upright and only tilt the unlit candle to be lit from the person next to you.

***Hymn** "Silent Night, Holy Night" *(vs. 1 and 4)* **UMH 239**

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.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels, let us sing
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

***Benediction**

***Our Response** "Joy to the World" *(vs. 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.

**Congregation standing, if able.*

Merry Christmas!

Please remember to sign the attendance pad.

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 service. Plants which are not picked up will be given to our homebound church community after Christmas.

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 Wednesday, January 4, 2020. The next church newsletter will go to print on that day.

WORSHIP UPDATE: The January 1st New year's Day Worship Service has been CANCELLED. Everyone is encouraged to ring in the new year with family and friends. And we look forward to welcoming all back to Church of the Good Shepherd at the January 8th Worship and Holy Communion Service.

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