Church of the Good Shepherd
United Methodist

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

December 24, 2022 9:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE

PREPARATION AND WELCOME

Prelude "Pavane, Op. 50" by Gabriel Faure
Ben Fried, cello; Brian Barany, guitar

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

Welcome and Greeting *Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin*

Call to Worship *(adapted from Isaiah 9:2, 6-7)* *Garrison Holder, Lay Reader*

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
All: The light has shined on the nation and increased its joy!
One: For a child has been born to us, a son given to all.
All: And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!
One: He will establish justice and righteousness, and there will be no end to his greatness.
All: The zeal of the Lord Almighty shall accomplish this for the faithful!

***Opening Hymn** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" *(Vs. 1-3)* **UMH #234**

Pastoral Prayer and 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 "Carols of Christmas" arr. McKechnie
Carillon Ringers; Carolyn Noonchester, Director
Stephen Cook, Piano

CELEBRATING THE WORD

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

***Gospel Lesson** Luke 2:1-14

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

Message "A Place to Stay" *Rev, Thai-Erwin*

Anthem Response "In the Bleak Midwinter" by Harold Darke
Chancel Choir; Kirk Averitt, Director

***Gospel Lesson** Luke 2:15-20 *Garrison Holder, Lay Reader*

***Hymn** "Away in a Manger" **UMH # 217**

Message "Joy to a Better World" *Rev. Thai-Erwin*

Anthem Response "Gesu Bambino"
Ben Fried, cello, and Stephen Cook, piano

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

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; Brian Barany, guitar; Ben Fried, cello

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 "He Is Born the Divine Christ Child" *Stephen Cook, Piano*

Tonight's cellist and guitarist are generously supported by the Howard and Fran Syverson Music Fund. Howard and Fran were long-time members of the church and strong believers in the spiritual power of music.

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 following the 10 a.m. Service tomorrow morning will be given to our homebound church community on December 26.

Tomorrow, Christmas morning, the 10:00 a.m. Service will be a Carol Sing-Along. Children are invited to bring one toy to be blessed and they may wear their pajamas to church!

The Worship Service on January 1, 2023, has been cancelled. We will see everyone on January 8, for Worship and Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Please remember the Church in your will.

Merry Christmas!

Ministers: Members of the Congregation
Resident Bishop: Bishop Grant J. Hagiya
District Superintendent: Siosaia Tuitahi
Pastor: 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.

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TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 2022

