



**Reaching Up, Reaching Out
Welcoming Everyone,
Serving in God's Love**

December 24, 2023
9:30 AM

Order of Worship

December 24, 2023

"In the beginning was a light and the light was God's love; and God was Love."
~ Lo The Poet

Boldface type: The congregation speaks in unison

WELCOME

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Laura Daillak, Recorder

*CALL TO WORSHIP

A barren woman is with child and a virgin conceives.

How can this be?

With God, all things are possible.

Laughter fills our hearts.

Magnify the Lord as we worship today.

Our lips sing God's glory.

HYMN

O Come All Ye Faithful

#234 vs.1-3,6

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

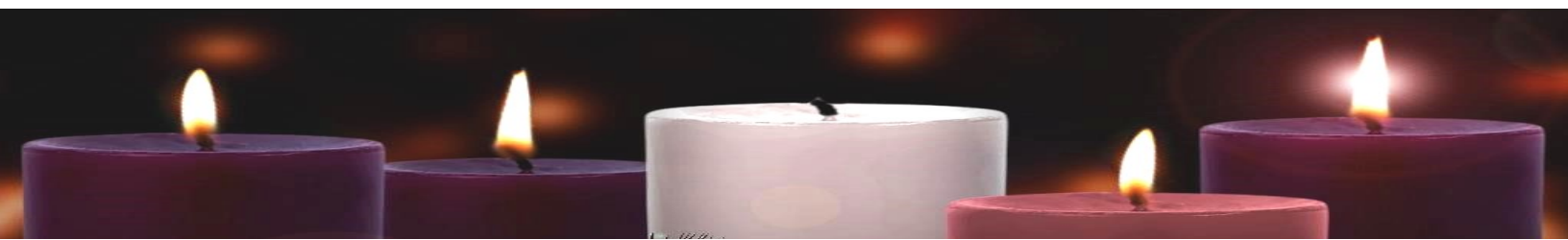
Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2. True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb; Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.



Look with favor upon us, O God, and bless us with your Holy Spirit. Guide us to live as your household of faith, that we might glorify your name each day. Scatter the proud once more and pull down the powerful from their thrones, even as you fill the hungry with good things, and send the rich away empty. Open our eyes to the promise of your salvation, that we might bear the message of Christ's love and be instruments of his love and peace. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Pat-a-Pan

(arr. Goetch)

Glory Bells

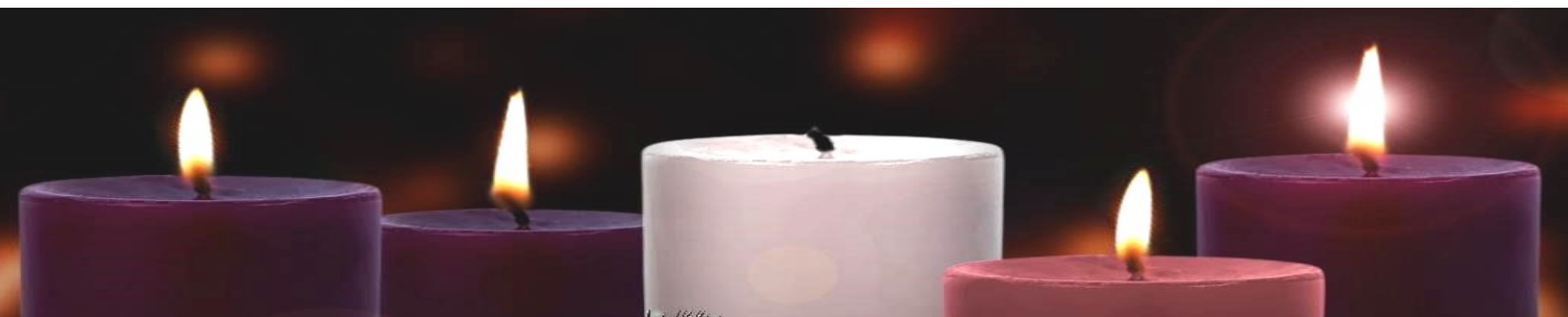
FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38

Pendra LaFee

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom, there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.



HYMN**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

#230 vs.1,3&4

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given; so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**Luke:46b-55 (adapted)**

Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
who has been mindful of me, a humble servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

for the Mighty One has done great things for me holy is God's name.

God's mercy extends to those who fear the Lord, from generation to generation.

God's arm is strong, performing mighty deeds, and scattering the proud in their inmost thoughts.

The mighty one has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

The Lord has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

God has helped Israel, the Lord's servant, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever,

fulfilling the promises to our ancestors." Glory to God in the highest!



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

5

Eternal God, from the reading of the Scriptures, may your Word be heard; in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.

SERMON

With God, Nothing Is Impossible

Rev. B. J. Beu

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORDS PRAYER

RESPONSE

"Song of Mary" - Featuring Sherry Atkins (Lopez/Rachmaninoff)

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of peace, you have restored our hope and sanctified our dreams. May this offering express the joy we feel for the gift of your salvation. May our tithes and our very lives help restore the dreams of the downhearted, as they behold the joyful meeting of heaven and earth and the tender kiss of righteousness and peace. Amen.

HYMN

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

#240 vs.1-3

BLESSING

PEOPLES RESPONSE

Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place

#328

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place, I can feel His mighty power and His grace, I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place

POSTLUDE

Silent Night
David Atkins, Pianist



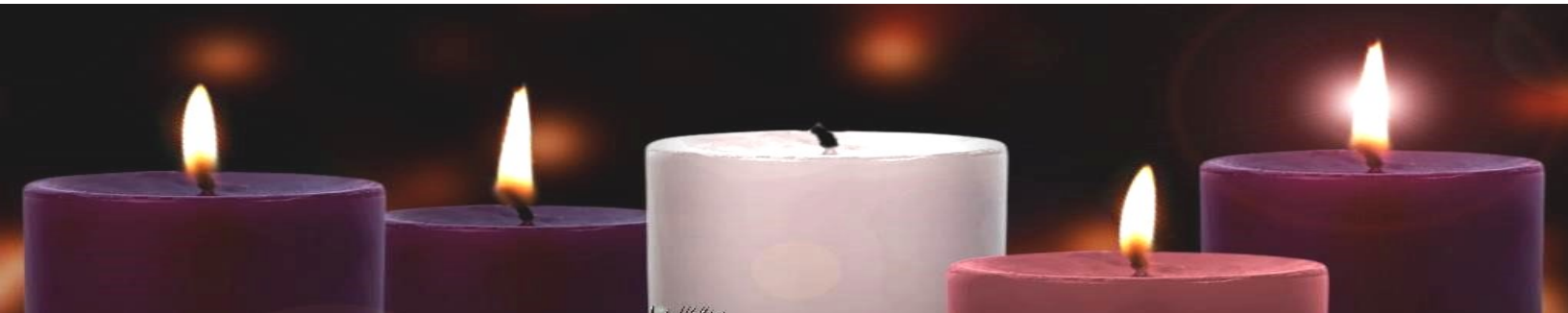
Prayer Request

... from Bev Miller, prayers for the sister of my neighbor who has degenerative heart disease and is not doing well.

... prayers for my friend Lorrie whose husband passed away yesterday.

... from Kathi LaFee, prayers For Bill Lafee for mental and physical recovery.

... from Leanne Leslie, I would like to request prayers for health and healing for myself. On Friday morning I ended up in the ER at Saddleback Medical Center with a case of pneumonia.



Worship Leaders for Today

Cantors-

Scott Bonhard, Sherry & David
Atkins, Laura Dailak, & Liz Heacock

A/V Tech-

Scott Andrews

Organist-

Richard Warne

Pianist-

David Atkins

Laguna Country Staff



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