

CLOSE to HOME

Anaheim First Presbyterian Church

December 19, 2021 @ 10:30 am

PRELUDE

The First Noel

arr. David Huntsinger

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

Come to Where the Shepherds Kneel John Parker/David Lantz III

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are seeking –deeper faith, a place to belong, and the feeling that God is here in this room.

We are seeking –joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit, and a hand to hold when we are alone in the dark.

We are seeking –the freedom to be, the courage to love, and the conviction to act in the face of injustice.

We are seeking, but here in this space, we are found.

Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.

God is here. We are found.

HYMN NO 23

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,

And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains,

Refrain: 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? [Refrain]

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;

Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Peggy and Chris Coleman

Today we relight the candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy remembering how Christ comes near to us in our homesickness, leads us into the path of peace, and invites us to lean in to Joy.

Relight the Candles of Hope and Peace

God's love is like an open door, God's love is the streetlight that guides us home.

God's love is a warm bed to fall into, a table with room for you, a crackling fireplace.

God's love is the sun that streams through the windows.

God's love is the roof over our heads and the floor beneath our feet.

God's love is a home for you and me, for neighbors and strangers, for family and friends, for enemies and partners.

God's love is a home for all.

Today we light the candle of love to remind us of this truth.

Light the Candle of Love

May it burn brightly in this space and even brighter in our hearts. Amen.

ANTHEM

Sing, My Soul, His Wondrous Love

Ned Rorem

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:39-56

SERMON

"Seeking Sanctuary"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from the Worship Sourcebook

In love Jesus came to a stable in Bethlehem to make his home with us In love, he walked the plains and hills of Galilee and Judea without a place to call home in order to teach us how to live.

In love, he was nailed on a cross on Calvary to bear away our sin.

In love, he rose from a tomb in Joseph's garden to defeat death's power over us.

In love, he ascended beyond the clouds to be our reigning Lord.

Jesus draws near to us in love so that we need never feel unloved, deserted, alone, condemned. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

HYMN

Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

J.S. Bach

Today's Worship Leaders:

Kim Skilling, Pastor

David Hughes, Director of Music,

Carol Hughes, Accompanist

Abbott Hatch & Richard Ramich, Video and Sound

Liturgy written by Sarah Are Speed @sanctfiedart