

CLOSE to HOME

Anaheim First Presbyterian Church

December 26, 2021 @ 10:30 am

PRELUDE

What Child Is This?

arr. David Huntsinger

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Out of the busyness of our worlds,

Out of the crankiness and boredom of life-as-usual—

Out of the darkness, we have seen a great light.

Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness: on them has light shined.

The birth of a baby calls us to something special.

Let our worship be our new beginning.

HYMN NO 22 (v. 1,2,&4)

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;

Ye, who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,

God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. [Refrain]

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,

Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: [Refrain]

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

On this day after Christmas, we come together before God and with one another, to confess the ways in which we have turned away from your Spirit of Peace.

We have neglected the voices of your children who cry out for justice,

focused too much energy on making the season “perfect,”

dismissed Christmas as a time only for children,

and closed our hearts to your amazing gift of love.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Word-Become-Flesh, hear us as we humbly pray,

Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. Amen.

Storytime “*The Christmas Pageant*” from [Good News from North Haven](#) by Michael L. Lindvall

Please enjoy your cookies and beverages as the story is read

Christmas Carol Singalong

Congregational Selections

When invited, please request Christmas Carols from the hymnal by name and hymn number

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We BELIEVE that Christmas is more than a time for parties and ornaments; it is a time for remembering Christ and the incarnation of God's love in human flesh.

We BELIEVE there are gifts more important than the ones under the Christmas tree, the things we teach our children, the way we share ourselves with friends, and the industry with which we set about reshaping the world in our time.

WE BELIEVE that the finest carols are often sung by the poorest voices; from hearts made warm by the wonder of the season.

WE BELIEVE in the angel's message that we should not be afraid—that the Child of Bethlehem is able to overcome all anxieties and insecurities.

WE BELIEVE in prayer and quietness as a way of appropriating Christmas—that if I wait in silence I will experience the presence of the one born in the manger, for he lives today as surely as he lived then.

WE BELIEVE in going away from Christmas as the wise men went: "another way." We want to be different when these days are past—more centered, more thoughtful, more caring.

AND We BELIEVE God will help us. 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 NO 29

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

arr. Charles Lindberg

Today's Worship Leaders:

Kim Skilling, Pastor

David Hughes, Director of Music, Carol Hughes, Accompanist

Abbott Hatch & Richard Ramich, Video and Sound