

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ANAHEIM



Anaheim First Presbyterian Church

December 18, 2022 @ 10:30 am

PRELUDE *I Wonder as I Wander* Traditional, arr. Charles Lindberg

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT *Calypso Carol* arr. Leo Tellep

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of today. God of tomorrow, you say, "Bring your full self. There's room for you here."

But we say, "Our lives are too messy."

You say, "Bring your hopes and your dreams. There's room for you here."

But we say, "It's too risky to hope."

You say, "Bring your grief and your prayers. There's room for you here."

But we say, "Some things are easier to forget."

God of today and God of tomorrow, we come to you as we are to worship you,

Knowing in our hearts that there's room for us here.

***HYMN NO 353** (v. 1, 3, 5) *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here*

(Sung to the Tune of "Jesus, Thou Boundless love to Me" NO. 366)

Great God, Your love has called us here as we by love, for love were made.

Your living likeness still we bear, though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.

We come with all our heart and mind Your call to hear, Your love to find.

Great God, in Christ You call our name and then receive us as Your own

Not through some merit, right, or claim but by Your gracious love alone.

We strain to glimpse Your mercy seat and find You kneeling at our feet.

Great God in Christ You set us free Your life to live, Your joy to share.

Give us Your Spirit's liberty to turn from guilt and dull despair

And offer all that faith can do while love is making all things new.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: LOVE

Alan and Glory Lopez

PRAYER

May this good news—these threads of love—not only weave deeper connections between neighbors but shape our actions and allow us to see God more clearly. In a lonely world, may this light shine bright reminding us that we are held in God's love, As we journey toward Bethlehem may we be guided by love. Amen.

RESPONSE

Jesus, the Light of the World

Walk in the light, beautiful light. Come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright.

Shine all around us by day or by night. Jesus, the light of the world.

ANTHEM

Some Children See Him

Alfred Burt

PASSING THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-38a & Isaiah 43:1-7

SERMON

Here I Am

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who offers second chances and does not hold grudges.

We believe in a God who opens the door to new life and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost.

We believe in a God who believes in us—believes that we can make a difference, that we can choose grace over comparison, love over hate, peace over war.

And so we strive to live our lives in love.

We strive to offer our whole selves as Mary offered her whole self, and to be the people that God calls us to be.

It's all that easy, and it's all that hard. This we believe. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

(Traditional, Hymnal p. 16)

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 37**

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W Zlobie Lezy

Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall,
Oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new.

Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing,

Greet the morrow; Christ the babe was born for you.

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful

J.F. Wade, arr. Jeff Bennett

Today's Worship Leaders:

Kim Skilling, Pastor

David Hughes, Director of Music, Carol Hughes, Accompanist

Sophia Khurana, soloist

Abbott Hatch & Rick Connor, Video and Sound

Liturgy by Sarah Are Speed, @sanctifiedart



Announcements