



First Presbyterian Church

at the heart of Anaheim

December 17, 2023



Advent and Christmas Worship 2023

*You are invited to stand as you are able.

PRELUDE

The First Nowell

arr. David Huntsinger

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

O Magnum Mysterium

Morten Lauridsen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our God can part the sea.

God can bring water from a rock, and provide bread in the desert.

Our God can walk on water.

He can heal the sick, and turn water into wine.

Our God sets the stars in the sky.

God hears our voice when we cry, and is closer than our own breath.

There is nothing our God cannot do.

Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.

*HYMN NO 8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, Behold, the King of glory waits;

The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple, set apart

From earthly use for heaven's employ; Adorned with prayer, and love, and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide.

Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Candle of Joy

The Fuentes Family

How does a weary world practice joy?

By dancing, and throwing birthday parties.

By hanging Christmas lights, and holding sleepy babies.

By singing loudly, and looking for good news.

By telling the story of Jesus, and showing up for our community.

There are a million ways to practice joy. So today we relight the candles of hope and peace and light the candle of joy as a reminder and a charge.

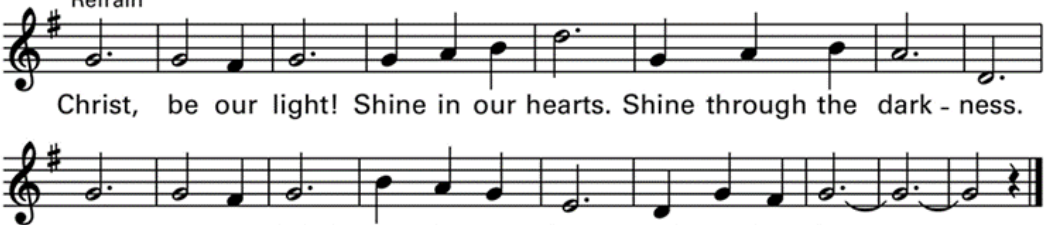
With God's help, may we bring joy into a weary world. Amen.

Response

Christ Be Our Light (Refrain)

Bernadette Farrell

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics 'Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.' The second staff contains the lyrics 'Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp.

ANTHEM*A Spotless Rose*

Herbert Howells

PASSING THE PEACE**TIME FOR CHILDREN****SCRIPTURE**

Luke 1:57-66, Psalm 126

SERMON*Gobsmacked***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in a God who knows our names, who counts the hairs on our heads, and carries the dreams in our hearts.

We believe that God's fingerprints are all over creation, and that God is forever speaking to us in a million different ways.

We believe that awe and wonder, goosebumps and laughter, telling stories and paying attention, are all ways that we can say thank you to our creating, sustaining, and loving God.

Therefore we commit ourselves to moving through this world with eyes wide open, with porous hearts, and grateful spirits.

We commit ourselves to living lives of awe, wonder, and gratitude, trusting that these things will forever draw us deeper into God's loving arms.

We believe. We stand in awe. Thanks be to God!

OFFERING MOMENT**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 23Angels We Have Heard on High*

Gloria

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? [R]

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [R]

BENEDICTION**CHORAL BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE***Angels We Have Heard on High*

arr. Fred Bock

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Kim Skilling- Pastor

Dr. David Hughes - Music Director

Carol Hughes - Organist/Pianist

Marcos Torres - Soloist

Susan Wei, Ministry Intern - Liturgist

The Fuentes Family - Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Abbott Hatch & Richard Ramich – Sound and Video

Today's liturgy by Sarah Speed, A Sanctified Art

Announcements

Worship Notes

Hearing assistance devices are available at the tech table (or ask a greeter).

For our Children: Worship activity bags are available from the greeters and we have a "Prayground", located at the front right of the Sanctuary. Nursery care is available for children up to age 6.



Coffee Fellowship

Every Sunday in the courtyard, following the Worship Service.

THIS WEEK

Zoom Bible Study on December 13, 2023

Wednesdays at 10am

All are invited to join to join us online: Zoom.us

Meeting ID: 608 966 196 Passcode: 5352176

Chancel Choir Practice, Thursdays at 7pm and Sundays at 9:30 am

Speak with Dr. Hughes for more details.

TODAY

YOU ARE INVITED TO:



PASTORS KIM AND STEVE'S
ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

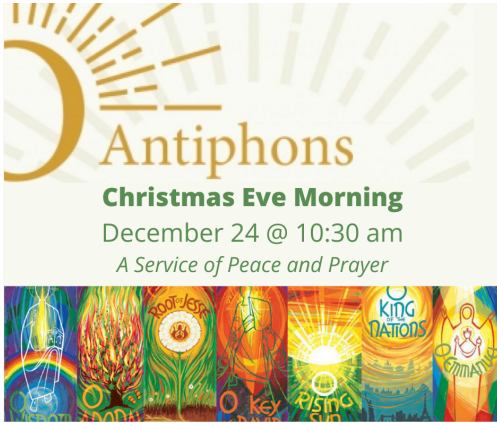
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

2:00-5:00 PM

2115 N BAKER ST

SANTA ANA, CA 92708

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



December 31, 2023 Service of Carols and Communion

As we stand at the threshold of a new year we will linger for a few more moments in the wonder of Christmas with a carol sing and then we will prepare to enter a new year with the celebration of communion.

January 7, 2024 Love Feast and Epiphany Star Words

We will celebrate the first Sunday of the new year with a Love Feast and celebration of Epiphany. A worship feast for body and soul.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for those in treatment for cancer: Carole Chambers, Judy Jordan, John Harb (Kendall Schubert's father), Matthew Williams (Jack and Geri Baird's grandson), Catherine Morris, Bill Anderson (Bruce Anderson's Brother)

Please pray for those on hospice: Patricia Carl

Please continue to pray for the health of: Cathy (Kendall Harb Schubert's grandmother), Dave Lopez (Alan Lopez' brother), Harvey Taylor, Dave Lopez, , Mellody Anderson, Norma Leichtweis, Esther Fieldhouse, Luca (son of Christina Cuddy's friend), Carol Talbot, Wanda Reynolds.

WAYS TO GIVE

Donations can be mailed to: First Presbyterian Church 310 W Broadway, Anaheim, CA 92805.
or Give online at www.anaheimfirstpres.org