



First United Methodist Church of Torrance Online Church in Worship

December 31, 2023

PRELUDE - Hani

Gesu Bambino
Pietro A. Yon
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WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Leader: We have welcomed the Christ child and declared the glory of God's salvation that comes to live among us. And yet, still, we wait.

People: **We watch and work for God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.**

Leader: We prepare to welcome a new year, thankful for how God has brought us through the past year and anxious to discover what the new year might bring.

People: **We watch and work for God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.**

Leader: We join generations of Simeons and Annas who learned and taught us how to listen, notice, and discern divine love at work in the world.

People: **We watch and work for God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God, whose love endures from generation to generation, guiding us from one year to the next.

People: **Come, let us worship as we live in anticipation of God's kin-dom on earth as it is heaven. Amen.**

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries)

OPENING HYMN #61 *Come, Thou Almighty King*

1. Come, thou almighty King,
help us thy name to sing,
help us to praise!
Father all glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days!

2. Come, thou incarnate Word,
gird on thy mighty sword,
our prayer attend!
Come, and thy people bless,
and give thy word success;
Spirit of holiness,
on us descend!

3. Come, holy Comforter,
thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art,
now rule in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of power!

4. To thee, great One in Three,
eternal praises be,
hence, evermore.
Thy sovereign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity
love and adore!

Come Thou Almighty King (Italian Hymn)
Felice de Giardini
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PASTOR'S TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

JOYS AND CONCERNS / PASTORAL PRAYER / 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING

For those who are called and able, gifts and tithes can still be made through [online giving](#), by mailing them in, and by dropping them off to the church office through the secure mail slot to the left of the double door entry to the church hallway.

OFFERTORY MUSIC – Megumi Komori**Etude Op. 25, No. 1 “Aeolian Harp”**

Frederic Chopin

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DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (Old 100th)

Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of hope and joy, the gifts we offer to you pale when our minds try to grasp all we have been given in this season: wholeness in our woundedness, hope in our despair, peace in our turmoil, forgiveness in our rebellion. Like Simeon, we have listened with our ears that we might not miss you, and our eyes have seen your salvation! You gave us light in our darkness and hope in our discouragement. Help us embrace your extravagant generosity as we give ourselves to others. In our Savior’s holy name, we pray. Amen.

*(Luke 2:22-40)***SCRIPTURE 1 John 2:7-17 (NRSV)**

7 Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word that you have heard. 8 Yet I am writing you a new commandment that is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. 9 Whoever says, “I am in the light,” while hating a brother or sister, is still in the darkness. 10 Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling. 11 But whoever hates another believer is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and does not know the way to go, because the darkness has brought on blindness.

12 I am writing to you, little children,
because your sins are forgiven on account of his name.

13 I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young people,
because you have conquered the evil one.

14 I write to you, children,
because you know the Father.
I write to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.
I write to you, young people,
because you are strong
and the word of God abides in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; 16 for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live forever.

Response

The Word of the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

Anthem - Chancel Choir

Child of our Dreams

Marty Haugen

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SERMON - Rev. Jacob Lee

The Darkness Passing Away as the True Light Shining

CLOSING HYMN #431 *Let There Be Peace on Earth* (sing 2 times)

Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth,
the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator,
children all are we.
Let us walk with each other
in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me;
let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment and live each moment
in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me.

Let There Be Peace On Earth

Jill Jackson | Sy Miller

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BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE - Hani****O Come, All Ye Faithful**

Arr. Edward Broughton

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