



First United Methodist Church of Torrance Online Church in Worship

December 8, 2024

PRELUDE - Hani

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Arr. Charles Callahan

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LIGHTING THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Reader 1: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness" (Malachi 3:2b-3)

Congregation: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.

Reader 2: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kin-dom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

(Light the second candle of the Advent wreath.)

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Children of God, prepare the way! The Word of God is coming!

All: We come to listen and receive God's Word among us.

Leader: Children of God, the prophets call to us now and from generations past, urging us to prepare and refine our hearts for the coming of the Word of God. Are you listening?

All: We come to listen and prepare to receive God's Word among us.

Leader: Children of God, this is the mark of our preparation: that passion for God's Word would burn within us, cleansing us and renewing us to reflect God's love throughout the world.

All: May God ignite our passion for God's Word that has come among us as we listen, prepare, and receive all that God has for us today. Amen.

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries)

OPENING HYMN #220 *Angels from the Realms of Glory* (v. 1-3)

1. 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.

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:

Refrain

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:

Refrain

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Henry Thomas Smart | James Montgomery
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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 and Josh

Sonata for Violin and Piano, Op.75 No.4 Movement #2
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
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DOXOLOGY FOR ADVENT

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

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow
Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken | Dean McIntyre
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PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, in this Advent season, we bring our offerings with hearts open to your call. Just as John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, may our gifts help prepare the way for your kingdom. Use these offerings to bring hope, justice, and transformation. Help us to look beyond the surface, to see your work in surprising places and people. Bless our giving, that it may shine with the presence of Emmanuel. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

(Luke 3:1-6)

CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION - Children and Youth

Based on *Interactive Storytelling: The Ox and the Donkey* by Gunter Spang

Song 1: The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy

Verse 1

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy
And they said that His name was Jesus

Verse 2

The angels sang when the baby was born
The angels sang when the baby was born
The angels sang when the baby was born
And proclaimed Him the Saviour Jesus

Verse 3

The shepherds came where the baby was born
The shepherds came where the baby was born
The shepherds came where the baby was born
And they say that His name was Jesus.

Verse 4

The wise men saw where the baby was born
The wise men saw where the baby was born
The wise men saw where the baby was born
And they saw that His name was Jesus

Anon.

Public Domain

Song 2: The Little Drummer Boy

Come, they told me, pa rum pum pum pum
A newborn King to see, pa rum pum pum pum
Our finest gifts we bring, pa rum pum pum pum
To lay before the King, pa rum pum pum pum
Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum.
So to honor Him, pa rum pum pum pum
When we come.

Katherine K Davis

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Song #3: Away in a Manger

Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

James Ramsey Murray

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Song #4: Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel
God with us, revealed in us
His name is called Emmanuel

Bob McGee

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Song #5: 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
Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Edward Shippen Barnes | James Chadwick

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Song #6: Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world; the Lord is come;
Let Earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry Heart prepare him room,
And Heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns,
Let men their Songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love.

George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts
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SCRIPTURE Malachi 3:1-4 (NRSV)

1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; 3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Response

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Anthem - Chancel Choir

A New King is Comin

Walter Rodby

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SERMON - Rev. Jacob Lee

Messengers and Message

CLOSING HYMN #384 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Love Divine (Beecher)

Charles Wesley | John Zundel
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BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE - Hani****Regent Square**

Henry T. Smart

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