



First United Methodist Church of Torrance Online Church in Worship

December 15, 2024

PRELUDE - Hani

Gesu Bambino
Pietro A. Yon
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LIGHTING THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Reader 1: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kingdom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

Congregation: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

Reader 2: We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together..

(Light the third (pink) candle of the Advent wreath.)

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Children of God, our world is full of the fruit of humanity's greed, apathy, and neglect for the love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

All: What, then, should we do?

Leader: Our world is also full of the fruit of God's love that wells up all around us, sustaining us, saving us, reviving us to live as the people of God.

All: What, then, should we do?

Leader: God encircles us on every side, Love divine present with us in creation, in community, and in the anticipated arrival of the infant Emmanuel.
What then, children of God, should you do?

All: We will live in joyful presence with God and neighbor, turning away from sin and toward a life with God and one another marked by joy, justice, and mercy. Amen.

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries)

OPENING HYMN #196 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley | Rowland Hugh Prichard

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TIME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

SPECIAL MUSIC - Liam and Willow

A Hallelujah Christmas

Cloverton

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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 - Marshall and Richard

Mary Did You Know

Buddy Greene | Mark Lowry

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DOXOLOGY

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

God of Advent joy, we bring our offerings with hearts open to your transformative call. In this season of anticipation, may our gifts help mend what is broken and share the promise of redemption. Empower us to live fully present, giving generously and acting justly. Let these offerings be seeds of hope and joy that will draw us closer to

your kin-dom. Bless our giving, that it may reflect your love and bring light to our world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Luke 3:7-18)

SCRIPTURE Zephaniah 3:14-20 (NRSV)

- 14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
- 15 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
- 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
- 17 The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
- 18 as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
- 19 I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
- 20 At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

Response

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Anthem - Chancel Choir

The Jesus Gift

Gilbert M. Martin

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SERMON – Rev. Jacob Lee

Rejoice; Do Not Fear!

CLOSING HYMN #160 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart (v. 1, 5)

1. Rejoice, ye pure in heart;
rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
your glorious banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain

Rejoice, rejoice,
rejoice, give thanks and sing.

5. Praise God who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore,
the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
one God forevermore.

Refrain

Rejoice Ye Pure In Heart (Marion)

Arthur Henry Messiter | Edward Hayes Plumptre
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE – Hani

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Arr. Marvin Gaspard

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Online Giving

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<https://firstumctorrance.org/giving/>.

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