



# First United Methodist Church of Torrance Online Church in Worship

December 22, 2024

## PRELUDE - Hani

### He Shall Feed His Flock From Messiah

G. F. Handel

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## LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Reader 1: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day.” (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, “But you, O First UMC of Torrance, from you shall come forth for me...” What? What might God be calling forth from us?

**Congregation: God invites us to receive the promise of God’s salvation and the sustenance of God’s mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.**

Reader 2: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God’s promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God’s love for all creation.

*(Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.)*

## WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Children of God, the arrival of the Promised One is almost here!

**All: We wait as people of God’s promise.**

Leader: The message of the prophets and the expectation residing in Mary’s womb call to us today.

**All: We listen as people of God’s promise.**

Leader: Mary’s “yes” and Elizabeth’s faithfulness guide our path, showing us that we too have a role to play in bearing God’s good news into the world.

**All: We follow as people of God’s promise.**

Leader: This is the promise Mary, Elizabeth, and the prophets bore that we continue to carry even today—God is with us!

**All: God is with us! We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

*(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries)*

**OPENING HYMN #249** *There's a Song in the Air* (v. 1, 2, 4)

1. There's a song in the air!  
There's a star in the sky!  
There's a mother's deep prayer  
and a baby's low cry!  
And the star rains its fire  
while the beautiful sing,  
for the manger of Bethlehem  
cradles a King!

2. There's a tumult of joy  
o'er the wonderful birth,  
for the virgin's sweet boy  
is the Lord of the earth.  
Ay! the star rains its fire  
while the beautiful sing,  
for the manger of Bethlehem  
cradles a King!

4. We rejoice in the light,  
and we echo the song  
that comes down through the night  
from the heavenly throng.  
Ay! we shout to the lovely  
evangel they bring,  
and we greet in his cradle  
our Savior and King!

**There's a Song in the Air**

Josiah Gilbert Holland | Karl Pomeroy Harrington  
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**TIME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH****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 - Josh

**Nocturne in C# minor, Op. Posthumous, No. 20**

Frederic Chopin

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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 grace and wonder, we offer these gifts in response to your call. As Mary responded with faith, we too say, "Here we are, let it be to us." Use these offerings to further your kin-dom on earth. Empower us to be bearers of Christ's presence, bringing hope and love to our community. May our giving reflect the promise of Emmanuel, God with us, and bring light and joy in this Advent season. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*(Luke 1:26-38)*

## SCRIPTURE Hebrews 10:5-10 (NRSV)

5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

7 Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

8 When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the

law), 9 then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. 10 And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

*Response*

The Word of the Lord:  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem – Chancel Choir**

**Let There Be Peace on Earth**

Jill Jackson | Sy Miller | Arr. William Stickles  
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**SERMON – Rev. Jacob Lee**

*Be Sanctified Through the Offering*

**CLOSING HYMN #362 *Nothing but the Blood* (v. 1, 4)**

1. What can wash away my sin?  
Nothing but blood of Jesus,  
What can make me whole again?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
O precious is the flow  
that makes me bright as snow;  
no other fount I know;  
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

4. This is all my hope and peace:  
nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
This is all my righteousness:  
nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
O precious is the flow  
that makes me bright as snow;  
no other fount I know;  
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

**Nothing But The Blood (Plainfield)**

Robert Lowry  
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## BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE - Hani

#### Jingle Bells

Arr. Pierpont James

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### Online Giving

If you are able, please give your tithes and offerings through our secure portal at  
<https://firstumctorrance.org/giving/>.

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