



# First United Methodist Church of Torrance Online Church in Worship

December 24, 2024

## PRELUDE - Hani

Oh Holy Night  
Adolphe Adam  
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## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Reader 1: Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

**Congregation: Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. “His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this” (Isaiah 9:7).**

Reader 2: We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God’s salvation wherever we go.

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

## WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: For you who are filled to the brim with happiness,

**All: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.**

Leader: For you who are mourning the loss of family and friends,

**All: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.**

Leader: For you who feel like you are tripping about in darkness,

**All: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.**

Leader: For you who rest in gratitude and contentment,

**All: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.**

Leader: For you who feel the ache of loneliness,

**All: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.**

Leader: For you who are surrounded by unlikely yet beautiful companionship,

**All: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the birth of our Savior!

**All:** Come, let us worship God who came to dwell among us!

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

## **THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM THE BIBLE**

*The scripture narration from The Message Bible.*

Readers: **Pastor Joy and Mark**

Message: **Rev. Jacob Lee**

## **The Prophecy**

**HYMN #211** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *(v. 1; remain seated)*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

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

## **O Come O Come Emmanuel (Veni Emmanuel)**

Henry Sloane Coffin | Laurence Hull Stookey | Thomas Helmore

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SCRIPTURE READING            Isaiah 9:2-7

## **CHOIR RESPONSE**

### **Come To Us Now, Emmanuel**

Don Besig | Nancy Price

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SCRIPTURE READING            Isaiah 11:1-5

## **MESSAGE**

## **The Conception**

SCRIPTURE READING            Luke 1:26-38

**CHOIR RESPONSE - Marshall and Richard  
Mary, Did You Know?**  
Buddy Greene | Mark Lowry  
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SCRIPTURE READING      Matthew 1:18-25

## MESSAGE

### The Birth

**HYMN NO. 245              The First Noel (v. 1)**

The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

**The First Noel**  
Traditional English Carol  
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SCRIPTURE READING      Luke 2:8-20

## CHOIR RESPONSE

**Have You Heard?**  
Jay Althouse  
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SCRIPTURE READING      Matthew 2:1-11

OFFERTORY - Josh

**O Holy Night**  
Adolphe Adam | Placide Cappeau  
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## Christmas Doxology

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,  
Glory to the Holy Spirit, to the Three-in-One.  
Here we offer to you gladly all the gifts that you impart,  
As we glory in your Presence, giving from a grateful Heart.

### Christmas Doxology (W Zlobie Lezy)

Brenda J Heard | Edith Margaret Gellibrand Reed

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## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Glorious God, as the shepherds rejoiced at the angel's news, we too bring our offerings with joy. Bless these gifts, that they may spread your good news of great joy to all people. Use them to bring peace, justice, and hope to our community and beyond. In this season of Advent, may our giving reflect the light of Christ, and may we be your instruments of love and generosity. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*(Luke 2:1-14)*

## The Massacre and Refuge

HYMN NO. 230

**O Little Town of Bethlehem** (v. 1)

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie;  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

### O Little Town of Bethlehem

Lewis Henry Redner | Phillips Brooks

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SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:12-15

**CHOIR RESPONSE**

Hurry, Shepherds, Run  
Charlotte Lee | Douglas Wagner  
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SCRIPTURE READING        Matthew 2:16-21

**MESSAGE****The Christ**

SCRIPTURE READING        Luke 1:68-75

**PRAISE RESPONSE**

**Rejoice and Sing Noel**  
Allan Robert Petker  
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SCRIPTURE READING        John 3:16-17

**HYMN #246        Joy to the World (v. 1, 2, 4)**

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart  
prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods,  
rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of  
his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

### **Joy to the World**

George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts  
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### **Hallelujah Chorus, from Messiah**

George F. Handel  
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## **BENEDICTION**

### **Processional to the Patio**

**HYMN - Silent Night** (*printed in the bulletin*)

### **Online Giving**

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

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