



# First United Methodist Church of Torrance Online Church in Worship

December 29, 2024

## PRELUDE - Hani

Noël Écossais  
Alexandre Guilmant  
Public Domain

## WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Children of God, Jesus Christ is born!

**All: God has come to make a home among us!**

Leader: Yet the story is not over. After birth comes the ordinary and mundane growing, maturing, and discovering, even for the Christ Child.

**All: In the ordinary and mundane, God has come to make a home among us.**

Leader: And sometimes, in the midst of the everyday, something surprising happens, and we discover anew just what God is up to in our midst.

**All: In the surprising and spectacular, God has come to make a home among us.**

Leader: Children of God, let us worship the God who dwells with us in all things and all seasons.

**All: We come to make our home with God who makes a home among us. Amen.**

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

## OPENING HYMN #77 *How Great Thou Art*

1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

### *Refrain*

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
How great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
How great thou art, how great thou art!

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

*Refrain*

3. And when I think that God, his son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin;

*Refrain*

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim, my God how great thou art!

*Refrain***How Great Thou Art**

Stuart Wesley Keene Hine

© 1949 and 1953 Stuart K. Hine Trust

Used by Permission. CCLI License # 656051

**YOUTH AND CHILDREN MINISTRIES 2024 RECAP - “Knowing God in 2024”**

Video Background Music: **Coffee Jazz Podcast Music** by Denis Pavlov Music

Used with Permission: [Pixabay](#) Content License

**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 - P.A.L.A.**

## 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  
Public Domain

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord of Light and Love, we offer these gifts with hearts transformed by the miracle of your son's birth. As the shepherds returned with joy and praise, may these offerings spread your joy and love. Use them to bless those in need, to bring hope and peace, and to further your kingdom here on earth. In this season of Advent, may we continue to glorify and praise you in all we do. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*(Luke 2:15-21)*

## SCRIPTURE Psalm 66:1-7 (NRSV)

- 1 Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
- 2       sing the glory of his name;  
      give to him glorious praise.
- 3 Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!  
      Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.
- 4 All the earth worships you;  
      they sing praises to you,  
      sing praises to your name." Selah
  
- 5 Come and see what God has done:  
      he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.
- 6 He turned the sea into dry land;  
      they passed through the river on foot.  
      There we rejoiced in him,
- 7       who rules by his might forever,  
      whose eyes keep watch on the nations—  
      let the rebellious not exalt themselves. Selah

### *Response*

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

## **Anthem – Chancel Choir**

### **What Is This Lovely Fragrance**

Healey Willan

© 1942 Oxford University Press

Used by Permission. ONE LICENSE # A-401420

## **SERMON – Rev. Jacob Lee**

*Count Your Blessings*

## **CLOSING HYMN #431 *Let There Be Peace on Earth***

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

© 1955. Renewed 1983 Jan – Lee Music

Used with Permission. CCLI License # 656051

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE – Hani**

### **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

Arr. Edward Broughton

© 1971 Lorenz Publishing Company

Used with Permission. ONE LICENSE # A-401420

**Online Giving**

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

---

Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from

- ONE LICENSE with license # A-401420, and from
- CCLI with license # CSPL052773.

All rights reserved.