



# First United Methodist Church of Torrance

## Online Church in Worship

December 21, 2025

### PRELUDE - Hani

**Christmas Rhapsody**

Arr. Roger C. Wilson

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### LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

**Reader 1:** Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

**Congregation:** With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.

**Reader 2:** We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

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

### WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** Beloved, God calls to us – like Joseph – through angels and messengers, inviting us to listen for the Spirit's guidance in the midst of half-truths and distractions.

**All: We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

**Leader:** Sometimes, angels surprise us (as they did Mary) with good news too fantastical to believe and yet too real – realer than real – to ignore.

**All: We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

**Leader:** For generations, God has sent signs of God's coming kingdom in unexpected places – the birth of a child, the wisdom of the lowly, the faithfulness of a carpenter.

**All: We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

**Leader:** Come! Let us worship God who calls out to us, inviting us to faithfulness as we watch, wait, and work for the day when the whole world knows the abundant love and grace of Emmanuel, God-with-us.

**All: Come! Let us worship as we listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

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

**OPENING HYMN #238** *Angels We Have Heard on High* (v. 1, 2, 4)

1. Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain*  
Gloria,  
in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria,  
in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song?

*Refrain*

4. See him in a manger laid,  
whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while our hearts in love we raise.

*Refrain*

**Angels We Have Heard on High**  
Edward Shippen Barnes | James Chadwick  
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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?

Mark Lowry | Buddy Greene

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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

Gracious God of deep joy, even when storms rage and doubts rise, you call us to see with kingdom eyes – to look for healing, hope, and signs of your grace breaking in. In this Advent season of expectation and weariness, we bring these gifts as expressions of joy, rooted not in ease but in trust. May our giving bear witness to your good news: that the blind still see, the lame still walk, and the poor still receive care. Use these offerings and us as signs of your coming reign, lights in the storm, and carriers of joy. In the name of Jesus, our hope and our Redeemer. Amen.

*(Matthew 11:2–11)*

## SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8–14 (NRSV)

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

*Response*

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

**Anthem – Chancel Choir****And the Glory of the Lord**

John Mabry | Arr. John Ness Beck

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**CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION****HYMN #240 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing***

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th’angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

*Refrain*

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th’incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Refrain*

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.

*Refrain***Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**

Charles Wesley | Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy  
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**Hymn 230 - O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Lewis Henry Redner | Phillips Brooks  
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**Hymn 239 - Silent Night (Stille Nacht)**

Franz Xaver Gruber | John Freeman Young | Joseph Mohr  
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**Hymn 234 - O Come, All Ye Faithful**

C. Frederick Oakeley | John Francis Wade  
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**Hymn 214 - Away in a Manger**

James Ramsey Murray  
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**Hymn 204 - Emmanuel**

Bob McGee  
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**Reflection - Pastor Jacob****HYMN NO. 245      *The First Noel* (v. 1, 2)**

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.

*Refrain*

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

2. They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.

*Refrain***The First Noel**

Traditional English Carol

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**Prayer (Table Grace)****Happy Birthday****HYMN #251** *Go Tell it on the Mountain* (v. 1, 2)*Refrain*

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens  
there shown a holy light.

*Refrain*

2. The shepherds feared and trembled,  
when lo! above the earth,  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed the Savior's birth.

*Refrain***Go Tell It On The Mountain**

John W. Work Jr. | William Farley Smith

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**BENEDICTION**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN #251** *Go Tell it on the Mountain* (v. 3)*Refrain*

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born.

3. Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.

*Refrain***Go Tell It On The Mountain**

John W. Work Jr. | William Farley Smith

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