



First United Methodist Church of Torrance

Online Church in Worship

December 28, 2025

PRELUDE - Hani

Noel Écossais

A. Guilmant

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WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Beloved, we have waited, watched, and witnessed the coming of the Christ child. As we gather today on the other side of Christmas, we might be tempted to ask, "What now?"

All: We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

Leader: In this season of Christmas, we remember that though Christ has come among us, the good news of freedom for captives, flourishing for the poor, and power returned to the disempowered does not reign in so many places.

All: We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

Leader: With Mary and Joseph, we listen for God to show us how to protect and advocate for the vulnerable among us.

All: We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

Leader: As we gather to worship today, may God bind us together in love, empowering us to live as followers of the Christ child who declare good news wherever we go.

All: We gather today as people who wait, watch, and work for the day that all the earth awaits. Thanks be to God! Amen.

(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

Venite Adoremus

Jerry Estes

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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
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PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Steadfast God of refuge and promise, even when the world makes no room, even when fear seems stronger than hope, you are with us. In the flight to Egypt, in the cries of grief, in the fragile beginnings of new life, you make a way. Receive these gifts, O God, as signs of our willingness to make room for your kingdom among us. Use what we bring - not just our treasure, but our time, our voices, our compassion - to heal what is broken, to protect the vulnerable, and to embody your saving love. In the name of Jesus, our Light in the shadows. Amen.

(Matthew 2:13-23)

SCRIPTURE 1 Samuel 7:12 (NRSV)

Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Jeshanah, and named it Ebenezer; for he said, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."

Response

The Word of the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

Anthem - Chancel Choir

Tiny Little Baby is Born
Jay Althouse
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SERMON - Rev. Jacob Lee

Thus Far the Lord Has Helped Us

CLOSING HYMN #140 Great Is Thy Faithfulness (v. 1, 2, 3)

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Refrain***Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

Thomas Obediah Chisholm | William Marion Runyan
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BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE – Hani****Title**

Composer

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