

Order of Worship
FORTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9:30 am – December 18, 2022

Participating Live?

Text your prayer requests to 805-309-6867 before the end of the first hymn.

PRELUDE

Zimbelstern-Prelude
Used with permission
Lance Crane, Organ

Paul Fey

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Tasha Salas, liturgist

L. This is the fourth Sunday of Advent, a time to rejoice in the wondrous things that God is doing.

P. Our hearts are filled with the hope that is coming into the world.

L. The time is fast approaching, not for parties or presence, but for the awareness of God's loving gift to us--
the gift of the Christ child.

P. Help slow us down, Lord, that we may realize that your gift of love is at the center of our lives and our celebrations.

L. Thanks be to God who again reminds us of God's eternal love.

P. Open our hearts, O Lord, to receive your blessed gift. Amen.

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HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

UMH 384

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747. Public Domain. Music: John Zundel, 1870. Public Domain

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be. Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Lehman Family

Reader : Isaiah said that the Lord spoke to the king and said, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven" (Isaiah 7:11 NRSV). But when the king refused, God would not be stopped. "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14 NRSV).

God wants us to know, even when we aren't sure ourselves. God wants us to experience God's presence, even when we think we can handle life on our own. God sends us signs of God's presence with us; all we need to do is keep our eyes open and look.

Reader: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy, and today of presence that speaks of love, as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.

HYMN*Toda la Tierra (All Earth Is Waiting) vs 1-3*

UMH 210

Words: trans. Gertrude C. Suppe, 1987. ©1988 United Methodist Publishing House. Song # 80401 with permission to podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from One License # 734744-A. All rights reserved. Music: Alterto Taulè, 1972. Harm. Kyle Hanks, 2022. Used with Permission.

1. All earth is waiting to see the Promised One, and the open furrows, the sowing of the Lord.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty: It cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

2. Thus says the prophet to those of Israel, “A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,”
for his name is “God with us,” our brother shall be, with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

3. Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain; open new highways, new highways for the Lord.
He is now coming closer, so come al and see, and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CHORAL OFFERING*People Look East*

arr. Drew Collins

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SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 7 : 10-16 (NRSV)
Matthew 1: 18-25 (NRSV)

Tasha Salas , liturgist

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Pastor Matt McPhee

MUSICAL RESPONSE*While We Are Waiting, Come* (Verse 1)

CCLI / Streaming: 345977 / 20105371 / CCLI Song # 27525

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Ever-present and Ever-living God, be present in these gifts which we return to you now. May they bring blessings and love through our ministry, even as they reflect the eternal caring of your Son. Be present in our lives, that we might bring your presence and your love to a world in need of your abiding home. Amen.

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HYMN*Joseph Heard the Troubling News*

Music: Piae Contones, 1852. Arr. Ernest C. MacMillian, 1930. Used with Permission
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1. Joseph heard the troubling news: Mary was expecting! What should he, a just man, do?
He sought God’s directing. Joseph thought to send her home-- leave her, without blaming;
Then an angel in a dream spoke of joy, proclaiming...

2. “Go, take Mary as your wife; Joseph, don’t you fear it— God has formed a precious life by the Holy Spirit!
Mary soon will bear a son; you shall name him Jesus. When the prophet spoke of him, he said,
“God is with us!”

3. God of love, we too may face times of doubt and trouble. May we know your daily grace, even when we struggle. Just as Joseph answered, “Yes!” with new dedication,
We rejoice, for we’ve been blessed by your incarnation

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on "O Come, Divine Messiah"
Lance Crane, organ

Lance Crane

People Look East

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

People, look east!

Prayer Requests

First UMC of Pasadena—Pastor Amy Aitken

First UMC of Reseda—Pastor Christian Jung

All those suffering from illness or loss of loved ones.

Ukraine



Miriam Arichea and Family

In memory of Daniel C. Arichea, our daddy and Lolo

Bob & Kathy Fierro

In memory of Robert and Rose Fierro, in memory of Bob Mack, in honor of Sylvia Mack

In honor of our kids and grandsons, in honor of Pastor Matt, Kathleen,

Clara, Gloria L, Gloria F, and Lance

Betty Harris—In honor of my loving family

Mayse Lai—Ngar Chee Yam Lai, Shane O’Riordan

Gloria Lewis

In honor of friends and family

In memory of loved ones

Sylvia Mack

In memory of parents, Waneta and Kenneth Hobart

In honor of daughter’s Kathy Fierro and Karyn McAlphin,

in honor of grandchildren and great grandson

Jan Marra—In loving memory of Alphonse Marra

Ross & Kathleen Matarazzo—In loving memory of daughter Mickayla

Pat & Joyce Modugno

In honor of daughters, Marika and Krista; in honor of grandsons, Samuel and Rhett

In honor of Pat’s mother Jean; in memory of Joyce’s mother Dorothy,

in memory of fathers Pat & Ransom

Henning & Linda Ottsen—In memory of Hans

Nancy Sieh—In memory of Frank Sieh

Laura Singer—In honor of Hans Ottsen