

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

Welcome and Invocation

Worship with Singing

IS HE WORTHY?

ALL THE WAY, MY SAVIOR LEADS ME (680)

Communal Reading SUNNY MARLOW & JOYCE MACIAS

Worship with Silence and Prayer PASTOR ANDREW

Worship with Singing

SAVIOR LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US (688)

I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY (267)

Offertory Prayer DONALD BROWN

Worship with Giving TONI SMITH

MARY, DID YOU KNOW?

Message ANDREW BARRETT

THE PACE OF PEACE

MATTHEW 11: 28-30

Time of Reflection and Prayer

Hymn of Response

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM (250)

Sharing at the Lord's Table

Benediction

COMMUNAL READING

SUNNY MARLOW AND JOYCE MACIAS

Speaker 1 – Please join us in a reading from Isaiah. If life with God is like a tree, then in Isaiah’s age, Israel’s tree had been cut down to nothing. The combined forces of sin, hostility, and oppression had reduced this once prospering cedar to a stump.

Speaker 2 – Yet to Israel, and to those of us who feel our lives are not what they ought to be, the prophet offers a promise:

Worshippers – “There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.”

Speaker 1 – The promise is of a king, born of David, who will sprout up from within the brokenness.

Speaker 2 – And unlike rulers—ancient and modern—who do not honor the Lord or seek His counsel, of this king the prophet says:

Worshippers – “The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.”

Men – “The Spirit of wisdom and understanding.”

Women – “The Spirit of counsel and might, and of the fear of the LORD.”

Speaker 1 – Led by God’s Spirit, the reign of this “shoot from the stump of Jesse” will grow and expand into a vast tree – which is a symbol of peace throughout Holy Scripture.

Speaker 2 – Today, therefore, we light the candle of peace, acknowledging that Jesus, born of the virgin Mary, is the Spirit-anointed-Son who will lead us to shalom [pronounced shah-lome]. He is the tree, beneath the shade of whose branches:

Worshippers – [Speaker 2 lights a second purple candle while the congregation responds] “The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the cow and the bear shall graze, the nursing child shall play over the hold of the cobra. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”

Speaker 1 – This is the word of the Lord!

Worshippers – Thanks be to God!

Speaker 1 – You may be seated.