

December 24, 2023
Service of Lessons & Carols - Order of Worship

Prelude

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
Arr. by Mary McDonald
Suk Choi

Welcome

Pastor Jim

Opening Prayer

Pastor Jim

Lighting of the Candle

Steve and Dori Moorehead

Reader one: This Advent Season we watch and wait for Christ's coming!
We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises
of God with prayer.
We have lit the first candle of Advent in hope.
We have lit the second candle of Advent for peace.
We have lit the third candle of joy.

This morning, we light this final Advent Candle with love.

Reader Two: Out of love for the people of God, the Lord speaks through the prophet
Isaiah, as found in the seventh chapter, verses 10-14:
The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God;
let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.
But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.
Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David!
Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God
also?
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.

Reader One: Let us pray.

God of hope, Prince of peace, Jubilee Judge, and Lord of love, your goodness is beyond our wildest imaginings. You give us more than we can think to ask, coming to us with impossible possibility in the union of flesh and spirit. Teach us to love this world and all people as you love us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.

Opening Carol

[Please stand if able.]

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Thomas Helmore

#133 (vs. 1, 3)

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
And drive away the shades of night, and pierce the clouds and bring us light!
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

First Lesson

Genesis 3: 8 - 15

Ben Roebuck

⁸ They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." ¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

Carol

[Please remain seated.]

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Lowell Mason

***Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!***

***Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee: here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.***

Second Lesson

Isaiah 9: 2, 6 - 7

Jessica Jenkins

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Carol

[Please remain seated.]

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Ralph Vaughan Williams

#135 (vs. 1, 2)

***Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.***

***Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.***

Third Lesson

Micah 5: 2 – 5a

Josh Harris

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Carol

[Please remain seated.]

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Lewis Redner
#155 (vs. 1, 4)

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see Thee lie!
Above Thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in Thy dark street shineth, the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight.*

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

Fourth Lesson

Luke 1: 26 - 38

Grady Jenkins

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Carol

[Please remain seated.]

What Child Is This?

John Stainer

#150 (vs. 1, 3)

***What Child is this who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

***So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

Fifth Lesson

Matthew 1: 18 - 23

Grace Hirakawa

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

Carol

[Please remain seated.]

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Richard Willis

#170 (vs. 1, 3)

***It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious King":
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.***

***For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
When, with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.***

²In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Carol

[Please remain seated.]

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Felix Mendelssohn

#171 (vs. 1, 3)

***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!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"***

***Hail the heavenly Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"***

Seventh Lesson**Luke 2: 8 - 16****Sydney Malone**

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors! ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Carol

[Please remain seated.]

Angels From the Realms of Glory

Henry Smart

#174 (vs.1, 2, 5)

***Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.***

***Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.***

***Though an infant now we view him he will share his Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to him; every knee shall then bow down:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.***

Blessing of Our Christmas Gifts, Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Sara

Offertory

Noels of Christmas **Arr. By Tom Fettke** **LNPC Chancel Choir**

Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Sing we all noel!
Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Sing we all noel!

Sing of the angels and shepherds,
Sing of the Savior's birth.
Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Sing we all noel!

Sing of the angels and shepherds,
Sing of the Savior's birth.
Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Sing we all noel!

The first Noel the angels 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.

He is the mighty King of kings,
He is the Lord of lords.
Let ev'ry nation praise the name of Christ,
The Incarnate Word.

Noel, noel, noel, noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

Noel, noel, noel, noel,
God's grace is freely given.
All hail his coming down to earth
And raises us to heaven.

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.

Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Sing we all noel!
Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Sing we all noel!

Noel, noel, noel, noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Sing we all noel!
Sing of the angels and shepherds,
Sing of the Savior's birth.

Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Sing we all noel!
Noel!

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Pastor Sara

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, forever. Amen.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Carol

[Please remain seated.]

We Three Kings
John Hopkins, Jr.
#185 (Vs. 1,5)

***We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.
O, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.***

***Glorious now behold Him arise; king and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.
O, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.***

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Carol

[Please stand if able.]

O Come, All Ye Faithful
John Wade
#173 (vs. 1, 3, 4)

***O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
 O come ye, O come ye To Bethlehem.
 Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels.
 O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.***

***Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!
 O sing, all ye citizens Of heaven above.
 "Glory to God, All glory in the highest."
 O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.***

***Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,
 Jesus, to Thee Be all glory given.
 Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing;
 O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.***

Benediction

Pastor Jim

Postlude

Angels from the Realms of Glory
Arr.by Anna Laura Page
Suk Choi


Today's Chancel flowers are given by Jim and Becky Szeyller
in celebration of their grandson Mason's birthday.



Thank You for Joining Us
Merry Christmas

Music used by permission CCLI 504316

Laguna Niguel Presbyterian C H U R C H



**Who has performed and done this,
calling the generations from the beginning?
I, the Lord, am first,
and will be with the last.**

Isaiah 41: 4

**Announcements
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023**

Noteworthy News

- ◆ **Upcoming Men’s Ministry Breakfast & Devotional:** Saturday, January 6th, at 8:00 am, in Gard A. Join us for a morning of fellowship, faith, & food as we kick off the new year. This event provides the opportunity to deepen your relationship with God while building lasting friendships within the community. Contact Scott Troester for more information or call the church office at 949-249-1218. We hope to see you there!

- ◆ **The Missions Team extends its sincerest thanks for supporting the LNPC Missions projects throughout the 2023 year.** If you are considering joining the Missions Team and would like more information about the “Team With A Heart,” please contact Cassandra Ondryas or Debbie Heath or call the church office.

- ◆ **Reminder - Church Office Closed:** The office will be closed Monday, December 25th, and Tuesday, December 26th, for the Christmas holiday. Regular office hours will resume Wednesday, December 27th.



THIS WEEK at LNPC

<p>December 24 SUNDAY</p> <hr/> <p>10:00 am Service of Lessons & Carols Sanctuary & Livestreamed</p> <p>4:00 pm Family Service Sanctuary & Livestreamed</p> <p>7:00 pm Communion & Candlelight Service Sanctuary & Livestreamed</p>	<p>December 28 THURSDAY</p> <hr/> <p>1:00 pm FAM Food Dist. 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal LNPC Parking Lot Sanctuary</p>	<p>December 29 FRIDAY</p> <hr/> <p>7:00 am AA Men’s 10:30 am AA Women’s Gard B Gard B</p>
<p>December 25 MONDAY</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED - MERRY CHRISTMAS</p>	<p>December 31 SUNDAY</p> <hr/> <p>10:00 am Sunday Worship 4:00 pm The Journey Sanctuary & Livestreamed Gard A</p>	
<p>December 26 TUESDAY</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>		
<p>December 27 WEDNESDAY</p> <hr/> <p>6:00 pm AA Mixed Gard B 6:30 pm Advent Study Gard A</p>		

Prayer Concerns

Family & Friends (Church Contact)

Claro Alfonso (Imfeld)
George Arakelian Family
(Troester)

Bill Brosnan (Troester)

Gary Fong (Ehlers)

Mike & Kathy Gessner
(Galloway)

Dr. John Grande (Troester)

Sandy Griffon (Stocksdale)

Randy Hairston (Hampsten)*

Hunter (Troester)

Sherry Kerner (Ehlers)

Amy Lechner Bolls (Lechner)

Leisle Family (LeBlanc)

Rossana Madrid (Ondryas)

Joni McGlynn (Bakers)

Erik McMahon (Rihovsky)

Barry McPeak (Ehlers)

Gary Mills (Ondryas)

Marge Molyneaux (Shelton)

Samia Najm (Wakim)

Marie Neis (Borg)

Ann Oliphant (Galloway)

John Osth (Khalfia)

Mike Otoupalik (Troester)

Linda Parker (Troester)

Maryann Pette (Shelton)

Cindy Rhoades (Baker)

George Rihovsky

Megan Shelton (Shelton)

Ken Simonson (Borg)

Amy Sinkeldam (Ehlers)

Kyoko Smith (Wright)

Carolyn Strick (Troester)

Kevin Strick (Troester)

John Stritch (Ehlers)

Michael Summers (Troester)

Lynnette Swickard (Baker)

Jim Wagner (Ehlers)

Dr. Mark Watters Family
(Troester)

Ted Wells (Wells)

Lauren Williams (Shelton)

Wilson Family (Coleman)

Prayer Concerns

LNPC Members

Doris Black
Claire Burrill
Joe and Carolyn Ditto
John Flannery
Steve Foster
*Rudy & Valerie Ising**
Joanne Jannard
Cheryl Kelsey
Nancy LeBlanc
Kathleen Lechner

Richard Odgers
Ron Pearce
Louanne Robeson
Kathleen Roebuck
Linda Schmidt
Jody Schnitzer
Jean Shelton
Karen Vassey
John and Lina Wakim

Peace & Comfort

Doris Black & Family (Husband)
Borg Family (Sandy's Brother,
Daughter-in-Law's Mother, Erik's
Brother)
Jane Carpenter & Family
(Husband)
Campman Family (Marilyn)
Brian Mangan & Family (Wife)
Cecil Spearman & Family (Wife)
Christa Strick (Troester)

LNPC STAFF

Senior Pastor, Head of Staff

Rev. James Szeyller
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