

**Sunday, December 17, 2023**

**Order of Worship**

**Prelude**

***Christians, We Have Met to Worship***  
**Arr. by Douglas Wagner**  
**Suk Choi, Organist**

**Welcome**

**Pastor Sara**

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

**Michael, Ann, & Max Boscardin**

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.  
*(The first two candles are already lit.)*  
This morning, we light this Advent Candle in joy!  
**Light the third pink candle**

Reader Two: Rejoice! For our Lord is coming into the darkness of oppression's exile to lead us home, as we hear in Isaiah 35:1-10: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Reader One: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader Two: Let us pray. O Lord, our redeemer, you lead us from languishing in sorrow's shadows into laughter's joy over your abundant restoration. Thank you that you are coming for us to lead us home along your Way, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Call to Worship

Pastor Sara

Leader: A voice in the dark, an image in a dream, a bright light in a clear sky –

**People:** *Wonders and signs that turn our hearts toward God,*

Leader: Holy mysteries that cause our hearts to sing,

**People:** *Soul-felt grace that radiates through our lives.*

Leader: Young and old alike feel the awesome presence of God and join with Mary in proclaiming the greatness of God.

**People:** *Our hearts rejoice and our souls magnify the One who visits us again and again.*

## Opening Prayer

Pastor Sara

Almighty God, the time of waiting is almost over. Like new parents eagerly awaiting the birth of a child, we impatiently wait with you for the birth of your Son. We stand in awe, knowing what the birth of this particular baby means for our lives yet unable to fully comprehend the depth of your love for us. We come before you in worship this morning, hoping that our thoughts, prayers and songs of praise are pleasing to you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Hymns of Praise

(please stand if able)

*Even So Come*

Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, & Jess Cates  
Taylor Furlong, Worship Singer  
Lee Lee Truong-Sawicki, Keyboard  
Christian Jacobson, Drums

*All of creation all of the earth  
Make straight a highway a path for the Lord  
Jesus is coming soon*

*Call back the sinner wake up the saint  
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame  
Jesus is coming soon*

*Like a bride waiting for her groom  
We'll be a Church ready for You  
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing  
Even so come Lord Jesus come  
Even so come Lord Jesus come*

*There will be justice all will be new  
Your name forever faithful and true  
Jesus is coming soon*

*Like a bride waiting for her groom  
We'll be a Church ready for You  
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing  
Even so come Lord Jesus come  
Even so come Lord Jesus come*

*So we wait we wait for You  
God we wait You're coming soon  
So we wait we wait for You  
God we wait You're coming soon*

*Like a bride waiting for her groom  
We'll be a Church ready for You  
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing  
Like a bride waiting for her groom  
We'll be a Church ready for You  
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing  
Even so come Lord Jesus come  
Even so come Lord Jesus come*

***Only King Forever***

**Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, & Wade Joye**

***Our God and firm foundation  
Our Rock the only solid ground  
The nations rise and fall  
Kingdoms once strong now shaken  
We trust forever in Your name  
The name of Jesus  
We trust in the name of Jesus***

***You are the only King forever  
Almighty God we lift You higher  
You are the only King forever  
Forevermore You are victorious***

***You are the only King forever  
Almighty God we lift You higher  
You are the only King forever  
Forevermore You are victorious***

***Unmatched in all Your wisdom  
In love and justice You will reign  
And ev'ry knee will bow  
We bring our expectations  
Our hope is anchored in Your name  
The name of Jesus  
Oh we trust the name of Jesus***

***You are the only King forever  
Almighty God we lift You higher  
You are the only King forever  
Forevermore You are victorious***

***You are the only King forever  
Almighty God we lift You higher  
You are the only King forever  
Forevermore You are victorious***

***We lift our banner high  
We lift the name of Jesus  
From age to age You reign  
Your kingdom has no end***

***We lift our banner high  
We lift the name of Jesus  
From age to age You reign  
Your kingdom has no end***

***We lift our banner high  
We lift the name of Jesus  
From age to age You reign  
Your kingdom has no end***

***You are the only King forever  
Almighty God we lift You higher  
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***You are the only King forever  
Almighty God we lift You higher  
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Forevermore You are victorious***

**Invitation to the Prayer of Confession**

**Ann Boscardin**

Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Have we done that this week or has Christ been crowded out of Advent? Let us confess our sins together. Let us pray.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Ann Boscardin**

*Merciful Savior, we have the best of intentions, wanting to create memorable celebrations of your incarnation. We confess, though, that we get off track. We are dazzled by shiny lights and beautifully decorated trees, yet fail to be your light to a hurting world. We run from one holiday event to the next, yet fail to stop and be a Good Samaritan to those who need food and shelter. We sing Christmas carols at every opportunity yet fail to share the Good News of your love to those for whom the holidays bring depression, grief, loneliness and despair. Forgive us, we pray. Restore to us a joy in the sacred, in the simple, and in being in your presence as redeemed children of God as we pray silently about our times and places where we have disappointed you and ourselves.*

**Silent Prayer.**

**Amen.**

**Declaration of Forgiveness**

**Ann Boscardin**

God so loved the world that Jesus, God's only Son, came into the world to redeem everyone who believes. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven because of Jesus Christ. Hallelujah! Amen.

**Response of Thanksgiving**

(please stand if able)

***Gloria Patri***

**LNPC Chancel Choir**

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Amen.***

**Passing of the Joy & Peace of Christ**

**Pastor Sara**

## **Musical Anthem**

***Prepare the Way***  
**Dennis and Nan Allen**  
**LNPC Chancel Choir**

Prepare the way, prepare the way;  
Make straight the way of the Lord!  
Prepare the way, prepare the way;  
Prepare the way, prepare the way;  
Make straight the way of the Lord!

Hear the voice in the wilderness calling,  
"Make way for the King to come."  
Hear the voice in the wilderness calling,  
"Make way for the King to come."

Let ev'ry valley be lifted up,  
Let ev'ry mountain be made low,

Prepare the way, prepare the way;  
Make straight the way of the Lord!  
Prepare the way, prepare the way;  
Prepare the way, prepare the way;  
Make straight the way of the Lord!

Hear the voice in the wilderness calling,  
"Make way for the King to come."  
Hear the voice in the wilderness calling,  
"Make way for the King to come."

Let ev'ry valley be lifted up,  
Let ev'ry mountain be made low,

Our eyes have been opened,  
For we see it now.  
The One we seek is among us;  
Behold the Lamb of God!

Prepare the way, prepare the way;  
Make straight the way of the Lord!  
Prepare the way, prepare the way;  
Prepare the way, prepare the way;  
Make straight the way of the Lord!

Prepare the way!  
Prepare the way!  
Prepare the way of the Lord!

## **Time For Young Disciples**

**Carolea Williams**

## **Prayer Song**

***God is always near me,  
God will always hear me,  
When I pray.***

<sup>1</sup> The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup> to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
<sup>4</sup> They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

**Hymn of Preparation**  
(please stand if able)

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*  
Charles Coffin; John Chandler, Translator  
LNPC Chancel Choir  
#136 (vv. 1, 5)

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh:  
Awake and listen for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings.*

*To you, O Christ, all praises be,  
Whose advent sets your people free;  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore!*

<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**Sermon**

**Anticipation**

**Pastor Sara**

**Time of Reflection**

**Blessing of Tithes and Offerings**

**Pastor Sara**



## Offertory

***Come Unto Him***  
**G. F. Handel**  
**Judy Ruddiman, Solo**

Come unto Him all ye that labor,  
Come unto Him, ye  
That are heavy laden,  
And He will give you rest.

Come unto Him all ye that labor,  
Come unto Him, ye  
That are heavy laden,  
And He will give you rest.

Take his yoke upon you  
And learn of Him,  
For He is meek and lowly of heart,  
And ye shall find rest,  
And ye shall find rest  
Unto your souls.

Take his yoke upon you  
And learn of Him,  
For He is meek and lowly of heart,

And ye shall find rest,  
And ye shall find rest  
Unto your souls.

## Pastoral Prayer and The 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***

**Hymn of Response**  
(please stand if able)

*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*  
Christopher Wordsworth  
LNPC Chancel Choir  
#190 (vv. 2, 4)

*God revealed at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, priest and king supreme,  
Once revealed in power divine  
Changing water into wine:*

*Cana's holy wedding guest  
Keeping to the last the best,  
Word before the world began,  
God revealed to us in man.*

*Stars shall fall and heavens fade,  
Sun and moon shall dark be made;  
Christ will then like lightning shine,  
All will see the glorious sign:*

*All will then the trumpet hear,  
All will see the Son appear,  
Word before the world began,  
God revealed to us in man.*

**Charge and Benediction**  
(please remain standing if able)

Pastor Sara

**Choral Response**

*Prayer for the Road*  
LNPC Chancel Choir

*May we be blessed as we go on our way.  
May we be kept in safety and love.  
May grace and compassion find their way to every soul,  
May this be our blessing, Amen.  
Amen, Amen.  
May this be our blessing, Amen  
Amen, Amen.  
May this be our blessing, Amen.*

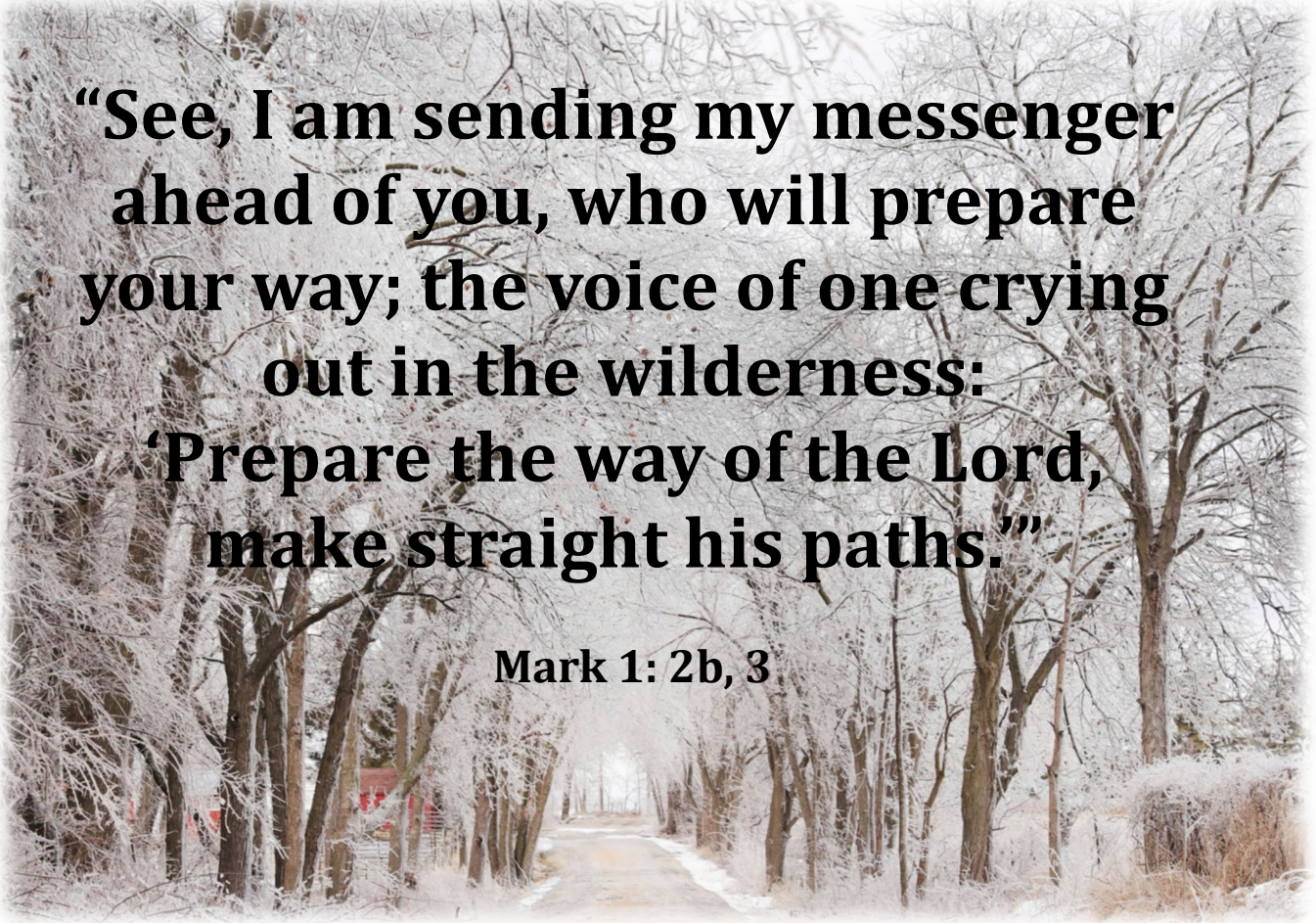
**Postlude**

***Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing***  
**Traditional Sicilian Melody**  
**Suk Choi, Organist**

Today's Chancel flowers are generously donated by Bill Futa.

*\*\*\*Music used by permission CCLI 504316\*\*\**

# **Laguna Niguel Presbyterian C H U R C H**



**“See, I am sending my messenger  
ahead of you, who will prepare  
your way; the voice of one crying  
out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.’”**

**Mark 1: 2b, 3**

**Announcements  
Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2023**

# Noteworthy News

◆ **Advent Class - God and Humanity in Advent:** Tonight, December 13th, we look at the men of Advent. Then, join us for the last class on December 20th, when we examine how God is revealed in the process of Advent. Wednesdays, 6:30 pm, in Gard A.

◆ **Christmas Eve Services, Sunday, December 24th:**

*10:00 am - Lessons & Carols*

*4:00 pm - Family Service*

*7:00 pm - Communion & Candlelight Service*

*\*Sunday School will not be held during our Christmas Eve Services. All children are invited to remain in the Sanctuary with their families.*

*\*\*All services will be livestreamed.*

◆ **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!

◆ **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

<u>December</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>
10:00 am	Sunday Worship	Sanctuary & FB Live	10:30 am	FAM Volunteer Lunch	Gard B
11:00 am	Christmas Caroling	Gard A/Off Site	1:00 pm	FAM Food Dist.	LNPC Parking Lot
11:15 am	Christian Ed.	Christian Ed. Rm.	4:00 pm	Chair Holy Yoga	Gard C
4:00 pm	The Journey	Gard A	5:00 pm	Holy Yoga	Gard C
			6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
<u>December</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>
7:00 am	AA Men's	Gard B	7:00 am	AA Men's	Gard B
10:30 am	AA Women's	Gard B	10:30 am	AA Women's	Gard B
6:00 pm	Session	Work Room			
8:00 pm	AA Mixed	Gard B			
<u>December</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
9:30 am	Al-Anon Mixed	Gard B	10:00 am	Service of Lessons & Carols	Sanctuary & FB Live
1:00 pm	Staff Meeting	Conference Room	4:00 pm	Family Service	Sanctuary & FB Live
5:00 pm	Holy Yoga	Gard C/Lawn	7:00 pm	Communion & Candlelight Service	Sanctuary & FB Live
<u>December</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>			
6:00 pm	AA Mixed	Gard B			
6:30 pm	Advent Study	Gard A			

# 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)  
Hunter (Troester)  
Sherry Kerner (Ehlers)  
Amy Lechner Bolls (Lechner)  
Leisle Family (LeBlanc)  
Rossana Madrid (Ondryas)  
Joni McGlynn (Bakers)  
Erik McMahan (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  
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  
Gary Wright

## 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  
pastorjim@lnpc.org

### Temporary Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Rev. Sara McCurdy  
sara@lnpc.org

### Music Minister

Lee Lee Truong-Sawicki  
leelee@lnpc.org

### Children's Ministry Director

Carolea Williams  
carolea@lnpc.org

### Director of Technology; Youth Intern

Ben Roebuck  
ben@lnpc.org

### Office Manager

Stephanie Muck  
office@lnpc.org

### Organist

Suk Choi

### Custodian

Nacho Calata

**Laguna Niguel**  
**Presbyterian**  
C H U R C H

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