

Sunday, December 31, 2023
Order of Worship

Prelude

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Arr. by Kenneth Varner
Suk Choi, Organist

Welcome

Pastor Jim

Call to Worship

Pastor Jim

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

People: We have received in faith that which you, O Lord, have promised.

Leader: Emmanuel: God with us, God in us, revealed to us.

People: Our souls rejoice in the salvation of the Lord.

Leader: The Lord will be our everlasting light and glory.

People: Praise and glory be to you, now and forevermore.

Opening Prayer

Pastor Jim

Almighty God, you have wondrously revealed yourself in the Holy Child of Bethlehem. By faith we kneel beside the manger-throne, hoping that somehow he will be born in us here and now. For Jesus' sake, grant that we may share in a new birth of faith. Teach us to recognize your presence in our lives and bring us at the last to the realm of your glory, through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymns of Praise
(please stand if able)

Joy To The World (Unspeakable Joy)
Tomlin, Cash, G. F. Handel, Watts, & Gilder
Taylor Furlong, Worship Singer
Lee Lee Truong-Sawicki, Keyboard, Sho Fujieda, Drums
& Chris Rivera, Electric Bass

***Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.***

***Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
Let all their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.***

***Joy, unspeakable joy!
An overflowing well;
No tongue can tell!
Joy, unspeakable joy!
It rises in my soul,
Never lets me go!***

***He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love!***

***Joy, unspeakable joy!
An overflowing well;
No tongue can tell!
Joy, unspeakable joy!
It rises in my soul,
Never lets me go!***

Angels from the Realms of Glory (Emmanuel)

Henry T. Smart, Brenton Brown, James Montgomery, Michael Rossback, & Paul Baloche

***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 field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light;
Come and worship,
Come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King!***

***Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
You are the God who saves us,
Worthy of all our praises.***

***Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
Come, have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus
Come, have Your way among us,
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus.***

***Come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King;
God is with us, even now His love is here.***

***Come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King;
God is with us, even now His love is here.***

His love is here.

***Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
You are the God who saves us,
Worthy of all our praises.***

***Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
Come, have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus
Come, have Your way among us,
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus.***

***Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
Emmanuel, Emmanuel.***

Invitation to the Prayer of Confession

Pastor Sara

We come to worship to praise God, but also we remember our own faults and problems. Let us now turn to God in confession together by offering our Prayer of Confession as printed in our Order of Worship.

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Sara

God of us all, we have praised the holy life of Jesus as we celebrated his birth; but we have difficulty following the example of his life. We know we cannot equal him. But we would like to be better at showing compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, patience and forgiveness. Forgive us when our living contradicts these qualities. Take possession of our hearts and transform our living by the presence of your Son. We ask that you would hear us as we confess our particular rebelliousness before you now in the silence of our hearts. Let us pray.

Silent Prayer.

Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Pastor Sara

Almighty God's love and power transforms death into life, despair into hope, lifeless stumps into tender shoots and a tiny baby into the Prince of Peace. In the hearing of God's Word and the repenting of our sins we are transformed into a new people. Friends, receive this gift. In Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

Response of Thanksgiving

Gloria Patri

(please stand if able)

*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

Time For Young Disciples

Carolea Williams

Prayer Song

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

¹ Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
² Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!
³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!
⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.
⁶ He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!
⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!
¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
¹² Young men and women alike,
old and young together!
¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the Lord!

Hymn of Preparation

(please stand if able)

All Creatures of Our God and King
St. Francis of Assisi; William H. Draper, Translator
#356 (vv. 1, 5)

*All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing:
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!*

*Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son
And praise the Spirit, Three in One,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

Second Lesson

Luke 2: 22 - 40

Pastor Jim
Pew Bible p. 59

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Time of Reflection

Blessing of Tithes and Offerings

Pastor Sara

Offertory

Peace Has Come
Benjamin Hastings, Seth Simmons, & Ben Fielding
Taylor Furlong, Solo

Behold the star of Bethlehem,
The Word of God has become flesh.
Unto us a child is born,
The Saviour of this broken world.

Holy, holy, holy.
Jesus, we adore Thee.
Peace has come,
For our King is with (us).

Oh, hear the angel voices sing,
"Come, let us adore Him."
Peace has come,
For our King is with us.

O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him.
Christ the Lord.

Fully God and fully man,
He comes for all with open hands.
He rules with love on David's throne,
All praise belongs to Christ alone.

Oh, hear the angel voices sing,
"Come, let us adore Him."
Peace has come,
For our King is with us.

Oh, hear the angel voices sing,
"Come, let us adore Him."
Peace has come,
For our King is with us.

Peace has come,
For our King is with us.

Peace has come,
For our King is with us.

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)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
John M. Neale, Paraphraser
#157 (vv. 2, 3)

***Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss;
Jesus Christ was born for this;
He has opened heaven's door,
And we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!***

***Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save;
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!***

Charge and Benediction
(please remain standing if able)

Pastor Jim

Choral Response

Prayer for the Road

***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

He Is Exalted
Twila Paris
Suk Choi, Organist

Laguna Niguel Presbyterian C H U R C H



**Announcements
December 31, 2023**

Noteworthy News

- ◆ **Unhanging of the Greens:** Sunday, January 7th, immediately following Worship. If you are able, please stay and help with this important task. The more who help, the faster the work is done. Thanks, in advance, for volunteering!
- ◆ **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!
- ◆ **Reminder - Church Office Closed:** The office will be closed Monday, January 1st, for New Year's Day. Regular office hours will resume Tuesday, January 2nd.
- ◆ **Look What's Returning Soon!:**
 - ~ LNPC Youth - Sunday, January 7th, 6:00 pm, the Garage
 - ~ Pastor's Bible Study - Tuesday, January 9th, 10:30 am, Conference Room
 - ~ Holy Yoga - Thursday, January 11th, 4:00 pm (Chair), 5:00 pm, Gard C

THIS WEEK at LNPC

<p>December 31</p> <hr/> <p>10:00 am Sunday Worship</p> <p>4:00 pm The Journey</p>	<p>SUNDAY</p> <hr/> <p>Sanctuary & Livestreamed Gard A</p>	<p>January 4</p> <hr/> <p>1:00 pm FAM Food Dist. 6:30 pm AA District 12</p>	<p>THURSDAY</p> <hr/> <p>LNPC Parking Lot Gard A</p>
<p>January 1</p> <hr/> <p>OFFICE CLOSED – Happy New Year!</p>	<p>MONDAY</p> <hr/>	<p>January 5</p> <hr/> <p>7:00 am AA Men's 10:30 am AA Women's</p>	<p>FRIDAY</p> <hr/> <p>Gard B Gard B</p>
<p>January 2</p> <hr/> <p>9:30 am Al-Anon Mixed 1:00 pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p>TUESDAY</p> <hr/> <p>Gard B Conference Room</p>	<p>January 6</p> <hr/> <p>8:00 am Men's Ministry Breakfast & Devotional</p>	<p>SATURDAY</p> <hr/> <p>Gard A</p>
<p>January 3</p> <hr/> <p>6:00 pm AA Mixed</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY</p> <hr/> <p>Gard B</p>	<p>January 7</p> <hr/> <p>10:00 am Sunday Worship</p> <p>11:15 am Unhanging of the Greens</p> <p>11:15 am Men's Ministry</p> <p>11:15 am Missions</p> <p>4:00 pm The Journey</p> <p>6:00 pm LNPC Youth</p>	<p>SUNDAY</p> <hr/> <p>Sanctuary & Livestreamed Sanctuary / Gard</p> <p>Conference Room Gard A Gard A the Garage</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
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
pastorjim@lnpc.org

Temporary Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Rev. Sara McCurdy
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Music Minister

Lee Lee Truong-Sawicki
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Children's Ministry Director

Carolea Williams
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Director of Technology: Youth Intern

Ben Roebuck
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Organist

Suk Choi

Custodian

Nacho Calata

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