

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**

**Order of Worship**

**Prelude**

*Jesus Shall Reign*  
**John Hatton**  
**Suk Choi, Organist**

**Welcome**

**Pastor Jim**

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

**Tom & Carol Stocksdales**

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. Today, the first week in Advent, we light this candle in hope.

Reader Two: Hear God's promise of hope from Isaiah 2:2-4: In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

Reader One: Let us pray: Faithful God, out of life's chaos, you bring the order of peace. Renew us in hope, that we may work toward Christ's advent of peace among all nations. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.

**Call to Worship**

**Pastor Jim**

Leader: We gather this morning,

**People:** *With joy and thanksgiving.*

Leader: Keep the fire of your Spirit burning in us,

**People:** *And let us hear your prophecies with fresh ears.*

Leader: With hearts full of anticipation,

**People:** *We await your coming, O Lord.*

Leader: Let us worship the Lord our God.

## Opening Prayer

Pastor Jim

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come into our midst. Come into our hearts. Come into our homes and our community, into our schools and workplaces. May we welcome you everywhere, making room for you, preparing for you, anticipating your arrival with joy and reverence. We commit this season of Advent to becoming ready. Shine your light in those nooks and crannies we keep in the shadows. Sweep the cobwebs from our long-hidden doubt and fear. Repair our torn and wounded places. We long for your arrival. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

## Hymns of Praise

(please stand if able)

*Joy To The World (Unspeakable Joy)*  
Tomlin, Cash, Handel, Watts, & Gilder  
Michael Smith, Worship Leader  
Sho Fujieda, Drums

*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*

***Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)***  
**Brenton Brown, Paul Baloche**

***Praise is rising Eyes are turning to You  
We turn to You  
Hope is stirring Hearts are yearning for You  
We long for You***

***'Cause when we see You  
We find strength to face the day  
In Your presence  
All our fears are washed away, Washed away***

***Hosanna hosanna  
You are the God who saves us  
Worthy of all our praises  
Hosanna hosanna  
Come have Your way among us  
We welcome You here Lord Jesus***

***Hear the sound of Hearts returning to You  
We turn to You  
In Your Kingdom Broken lives are made new  
You make us new***

***'Cause when we see You  
We find strength to face the day  
In Your presence  
All our fears are washed away, Washed away***

***Hosanna hosanna  
You are the God who saves us  
Worthy of all our praises  
Hosanna hosanna  
Come have Your way among us  
We welcome You here Lord Jesus***

***Hosanna hosanna  
You are the God who saves us  
Worthy of all our praises  
Hosanna hosanna  
Come have Your way among us  
We welcome You here Lord Jesus***

**Invitation to the Prayer of Confession**

**Jill Fitzpatrick**

Gracious God, we welcome you to our house, the sacred space we have built to gather together as your people. Here we come to offer you our thanksgiving and praise in response to the abundance of your creation. Here we come to share with you our prayers of confession and petition, for they lie heavy on our hearts. Even knowing that you are here and everywhere, we come longing to hear you say, "I am with you always." Hear us now Lord as we bring our prayers of confession to you now. Please join with me in prayer.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Jill Fitzpatrick**

*Compassionate, Forgiving God, we trespass on your mercy and take your favor for granted. We think only of ourselves. We forget the lessons of those who came before us and ignore our responsibility to those who will follow us. We grow proud and seek power. We do not see the destruction of our actions and how it distances us from you. We do not recognize our hunger for what it is, or where it leads us. We grow faint. Bring us home to you, Merciful God, as we confess our sinfulness to you now from the silence of our hearts.*

**Silent Prayer.**

**Amen.**

**Declaration of Forgiveness**

**Jill Fitzpatrick**

Friends, hear this good news! The babe on whose birth we await once again has made possible the forgiveness of our sins and our embrace of God's righteousness. In Him we have been made clean. Thanks be to God!

**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**

***A Prelude to Advent*  
Arr. Ruth Elaine Schram  
LNPC Chancel Choir**

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 Thy justice here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.  
O come Emmanuel.

**Time For Young Disciples**

**Howard Hirakawa**

## Prayer Song

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

## First Lesson

Isaiah 11: 1 - 5

Troy Koutsoudis  
Pew Bible p. 640 - 641

- <sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
<sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

## Hymn of Preparation

(please stand if able)

*Come thou Long Expected Jesus*

Charles Wesley  
LNPC Chancel Choir  
#135 (vv. 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 for ever,  
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.*

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

**Sermon**

**Advent in Song: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus**

**Pastor Jim**

**Time of Reflection**

**Blessing of Tithes and Offerings**

**Pastor Sara**

## Offertory

***O Come All You Unfaithful***

**Lisa Clow and Bob Kauflin**

**Michael Smith, Solo**

O come all you unfaithful  
Come weak and unstable  
Come know you are not alone

O come barren and waiting ones  
Weary of praying  
Come see what your God has done

Christ is born Christ is born  
Christ is born for you

O come bitter and broken  
Come with fears unspoken  
Come taste of His perfect love

O come guilty and hiding ones  
There is no need to run  
See what your God has done

Christ is born Christ is born  
Christ is born for you

Christ is born Christ is born  
Christ is born for you

He's the Lamb who was given slain for our pardon  
His promise is peace for those who believe  
He's the Lamb who was given slain for our pardon  
His promise is peace for those who believe

So come though you have nothing  
Come He is the offering  
Come see what your God has done

Christ is born Christ is born  
Christ is born for you

Christ is born Christ is born  
Christ is born for you

## 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)

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
Henry Sloane Coffin  
LNPC Chancel Choir  
#133 (vv. 1, 3)

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.*

*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!*

*Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

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

Pastor Jim

**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**

*The Heavens Declare the Glory of God*  
Benedetto Marcello  
Suk Choi, Organist

Today's Chancel flowers are given by Allen Renning  
in memory of JoAnn Taylor Renning on her 74<sup>th</sup> birthday (12/3/1949).



# Laguna Niguel Presbyterian C H U R C H



**Announcements**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**December 3, 2023**

# Noteworthy News

- ◆ **CWF Tickets On Sale Now!** Purchase your tickets online at LNPC.org, on the LNPC App, on the patio after Worship, or by calling the church office (949.249.1218). Performances are Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 pm, and Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 4:00pm. \$25.00/ticket.
- ◆ **Christmas Caroling:** Enjoy wassail and cookies in Gard Hall after Worship on Sunday, December 17th, as we warm up our voices to delight our beloved homebound folks. We will travel to pre-arranged homes and bring Christmas cheer as we sing familiar holiday carols. Sign-up on the patio after church.
- ◆ **Advent Class - God and Humanity in Advent:** Wednesday, December 6th, 13th, and 20th, at 6:30 pm, in Gard Hall. This year we look at the women of Advent (6th), the men of Advent (13th), and the God revealed in the process of Advent (20th).
- ◆ **LNPC App Demonstration:** Stay after Worship on Sunday, December 3rd, for an App demonstration and discover how easy it is to download the App, watch live streams, view worship sheets and Scriptures, explore LNPC Ministries, check out upcoming Events and Classes, Donate, and more! The Demo will be livestreamed immediately following Worship.
- ◆ **Poinsettias Arriving Soon:** Donate online or call the church office to donate a poinsettia for the Sanctuary during the Christmas season. Thank you for your donation of \$15.00 per poinsettia.

## THIS WEEK at LNPC

<b>December 3</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>December 7</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>
10:00 am	Sunday Worship	1:00 pm	FAM Food Dist.
11:00 am	LNPC App Demo	4:00 pm	Chair Holy Yoga
11:15 am	Men's Ministry	5:00 pm	Holy Yoga
11:15 am	Missions	6:30 pm	CWF Full Rehearsal
4:00 pm	The Journey	6:30 pm	AA District 12
6:00 pm	Youth Group	7:00 pm	Youth Bible Study
	Sanctuary & FB Live		LNPC Parking Lot
	Sanctuary		Gard C
	Conference Room		Gard C
	Gard A		Sanctuary
	Gard A		Gard A
	The Garage		Off Site
<b>December 4</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>December 8</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
7:00 am	AA Men's	7:00 am	AA Men's
10:30 am	AA Women's	10:30 am	AA Women's
6:30 pm	Deacons Meeting		
8:00 pm	AA Mixed		
	Gard B		
	Gard B		
	Conference Room		
	Gard B		
<b>December 5</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>December 9</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
9:30 am	Al-Anon Mixed	9:00 am	Buildings & Grounds
10:30 am	Pastor's Bible Study	9:00 am	Bag Ladies
1:00 pm	Staff Meeting	2:00 pm	CWF Full Rehearsal
5:00 pm	Holy Yoga	5:15 pm	Light Dinner for CWF
	Gard B	7:00 pm	Orchestra and Choir
	Conference Room		Christmas Worship
	Conference Room		Festival
	Gard C/Lawn		Sanctuary
<b>December 6</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>December 10</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
6:00 pm	AA Mixed	10:00 am	Communion Sunday
6:30 pm	Advent Study	11:30 am	Congregational Life
	Gard B	2:30 pm	CWF Warm Up
	Gard A	4:00 pm	Christmas Worship
			Festival
			Sanctuary & FB Live
			Conference Room
			Sanctuary
			Sanctuary

# 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)  
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)  
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 & Ginger 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)  
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

### Children's Ministry Director

Carolea Williams  
carolea@lnpc.org

### Music Minister

Lee Lee Truong-Sawicki  
leelee@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

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**Presbyterian**  
C H U R C H

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