

**COMMUNITY
CHURCH** LEISURE
WORLD

LIGHTING
A pathway into community

GROWING
Disciples in God's Love

SENDING
The Hope and Joy of Jesus

Our Vision: To Be Love to Leisure World

14000 Church Place
Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307
562-431-2503

Sunday Service: 9:50 AM
Christmas Eve Service: 4:00 PM

December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve: Lessons & Carols

To Be A Part I Manger



Rev. Johan Dodge

PRELUDE: "Christmas Medley" — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

GREETING AND WELCOME — Rev. Johan Dodge

Good Afternoon and Welcome to Worship! Worship is often the first place that new people come into contact with this growing community of faith. And so, if you are joining us for the first time, I say to you what is said every Sunday: You are welcome here. Here is a place where all are welcome. For such is the love of God for God's Very Good Creation.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN-CAROL: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" / "Adéste Fidèles"

*Adéste fidèles, laeti triumphantes,
Veníte, veníte in Bétlehem:
Natum videte Regem angelórum:
Veníte, adorémus,
Veníte, adorémus
Veníte, adorémus Dóminum!*

Come faithful, joyful triumphant,
Come, come to Bethlehem,
Behold the birth of the King of angels
Come, let us worship,
Come, let us worship
Come, let us worship the Lord!

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - u - ta - tion, ;
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, ;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; Come, and be -
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of Heav'n - a - bove! Glo - ry to
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the

hold him, born the King of an - gels;
God, all glo - ry in the high - est; O come, let us a -
Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O

18

come let us a - dore him, — Christ, — the Lord!

[please be seated]

PRAYER OF THE DAY — Virginia Olejnik

Glorious God,
on this Christmas Eve,
we hear beloved stories of Bethlehem,
of shepherds and angels,
of Mary and Joseph,
and the infant Jesus, our Savior.

Is there yet a new story you invite us to?
A story to be learned from the heavens and the earth:
where the roar of the sea, the exultation of the fields,
and the joy of the trees are already raised
in a chorus of glad rejoicing, ready to welcome you.
Even if no ear may hear your coming,
help us hear the story of creation.

Then, with the whole cosmos, we will tell of your salvation,
declare your glory, and in a crescendo of praise,
bless your name:
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Love,
Provider of Peace!
Amen.

HYMN-CAROL: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
Christ, by high - est Heav'n a - dored; Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
Hail the Heav'n - born prince of peace! Hail the sun of right-eous-ness!

5

peace on Earth and mer-cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

9

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, — join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; — hail th'in-car-nate de - i - ty, —
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, — born that we no more may die, —

13

with th'an-gel - ic host pro-claim: "Christ is — born in Beth-le - hem!"
 pleased on Earth with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise each child of Earth. born to — give us sec-ond birth.

17

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing: "Glo - ry — to the new-born king!"

SCRIPTURE — Virginia Olejnik

Isaiah 40:1-2a, 3-5, 10-11a; 49:13

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned.

A voice cries in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Behold the Lord will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on the afflicted.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Gracious and Holy God, On this night, we have heard how the world into which Jesus was born was ruled by governor, emperor, and king. Yet this story reveals that you, O God, are the only true Sovereign—Almighty and Everlasting. We thank you that justice and righteousness are in your hands. We praise you for the peace you have promised. Most especially, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, who dwells among us full of grace and truth. Hear now our prayers of intercession, that all people might find healing, comfort, and joy.

We pray for public officials, rulers, and leaders in our own time: Give them wisdom in decrees and decisions, a will for the common good, and the courage to work for peace in local communities and among the nations ...

Shine upon them and give them peace.

We pray for all who work and watch this night: for those in hospitals and positions of public service; for those serving our country here and around the globe; for those in airports, trains, and bus stations; for those who work in shelters, hotels, and other places of hospitality ...

Shine upon them and give them peace.

We pray for all who suffer this night: those who are sick and those who are dying; for one who is cold; for one who is lonely or grieving; for people who are hungry and thirsty; for all who struggle with addiction ...

Shine upon them and give them peace.

We pray for families and friends: for those who are with us and those far away; for those who are traveling; for those who especially need your guidance in this season; and for those in our memories who now dwell with you ...

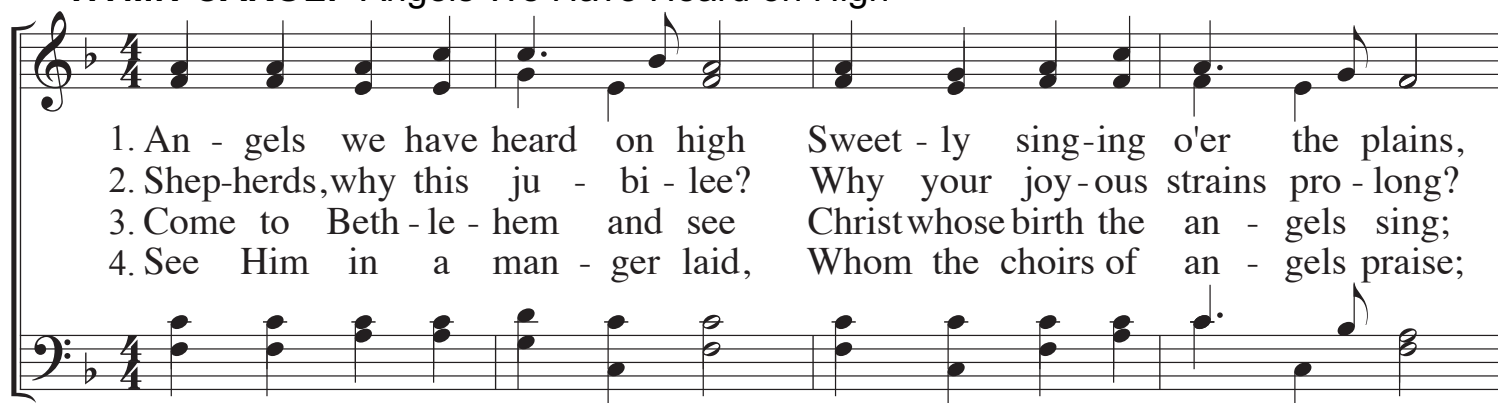
Shine upon them and give them peace.

We pray, O God, with the multitude of the heavenly host, that through Jesus Christ your glory will lighten every darkness; that your peace will fill all in all. We pray that those who live in the midst of war may instead live without fear and destruction; that those who live with the threat of danger in homes or on city streets may instead dwell in safety; and that all your creatures, and creation itself, may be restored and renewed.

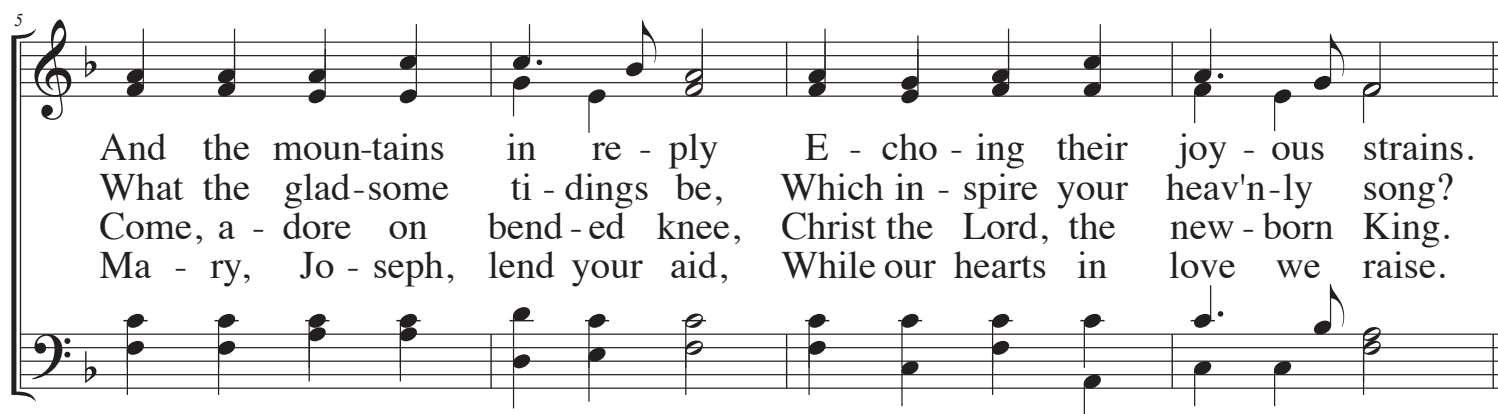
Shine upon them and give them peace.

Conform our prayers to your will, and use us to accomplish your purposes,
for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

HYMN-CAROL: "Angels We Have Heard on High"



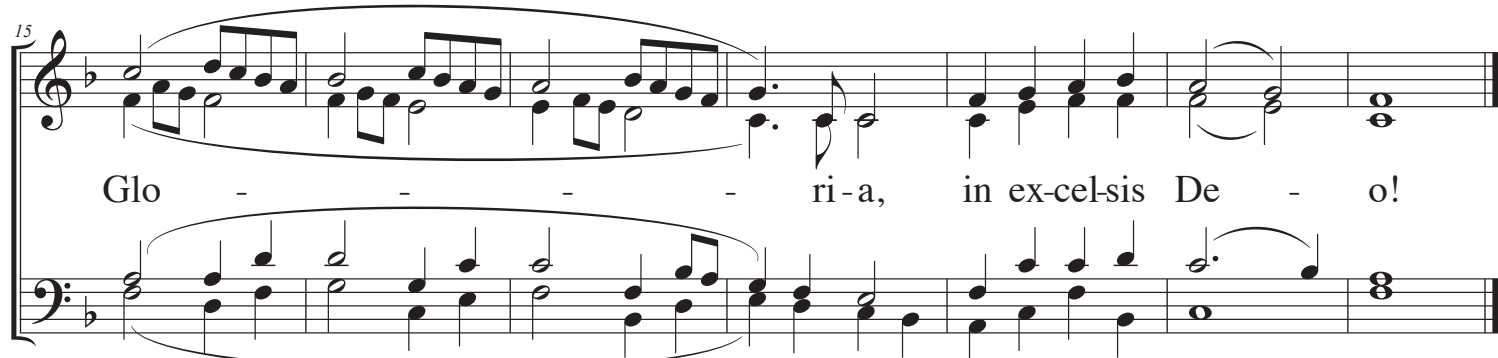
1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy-ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;
4. See Him in a man - ger laid, Whom the choirs of an - gels praise;



And the moun-tains in re - ply E - cho - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad-some ti - dings be, Which in - spire your heav'n-ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend-ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, While our hearts in love we raise.



Glo - - - ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De - o!



Glo - - - ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De - o!

[please be seated]

SCRIPTURE — Phyllis Spencer

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, with a message for a young maiden betrothed to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David; her name was Mary. The angel appeared and said to her, 'Hail, most favored! The Lord is with you!' But she was deeply troubled by what he said and wondered what this greeting might mean. Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for God has been gracious to you; you shall conceive and bear a son, and shall give him the name Jesus. He will be great; he will bear the title 'Son of the Most High'; the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David, and he will be the king over Israel for ever; his reign shall never end. 'How can this be?' said Mary. 'I am still a virgin.' The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the child to be born will be called the 'Son of God'. Mary said, 'I am the Lord's servant; as you have spoken it, so be it.' Then the angel departed from her.

HYMN-CAROL: "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

The musical score is written for a four-part vocal setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the next four lines. The music is in 9/8 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piano accompaniment is written in the bass clef, and the vocal parts are written in the treble clef. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from Heav - en came, — With
2. "How blest a - mong all wom - en you shall be, — Whom
3. Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head. — "To
4. Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born — In

wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes — as flame. — "All
ev - 'ry age will praise con - tin - ual - ly. — Your
me be as it pleas - es God, — she said. — "My
Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn. — "And

hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Mar - y, —
 Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told, — Most
 soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name. —
 Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say: —

high - ly fa-vored la - dy," Gló - ri - a!

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Virginia Olejnik

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. Jesus Christ has shown us how to live: loving God and neighbor, sharing what we have, engaging in acts of mercy and justice. As we celebrate his birth, and learn to do as he taught us to do, let us bring the offerings of our lives before him.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: "The Little Drummer Boy" — Dave Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Phyllis Spencer

God of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for your greatest gift, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. In this season when so many gifts are given and received, we pray that you will receive the gifts we offer now. Use them according to your purposes and plans, bringing your good news of great joy to all people; through Jesus born again in us tonight. **Amen.**

HYMN-CAROL: "The First Noel"

The first no - el the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor
 They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the
 This star drew nigh un - to the north-west; o - ver Beth - le -

7
shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing their
east be-yond them far; and to the Earth it gave great
hem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and

13
sheep on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
light, and so it con-tin-ued both day and night.
stay, right o-ver the place where Je-sus lay.

18
No - el, no - el, no - el, no - el!

23
Born is the King of Is - ra - el!

SCRIPTURE — Virginia Olejnik

Luke 2:1, 3-7

In those days a decree was issued by the Emperor Augustus for a registration to be made throughout the Roman world ... For this purpose everyone made his way to his own town; and so Joseph went up to Judea from the town of Nazareth to Galilee, to register at the city of David, called Bethlehem, because he was of the house of David by descent; and with him went Mary who was betrothed to him.

She was expecting a child, and while they were there the time came for her baby to be born, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them to lodge in the house.

HYMN-CAROL: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem
 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have

Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem
 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have

Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem
 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have

5

mp *p* ,

— hath sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As
— in mind, With Ma - ry we be - hold it. The

mp *p* ,

stem hath sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As
have in mind, With Ma - ry we be - hold it. The

8 *mp* *p* ,

— hath sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As
— in mind, With Ma - ry we be - hold it. The

mp *p* ,

hath in sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As
in mind, With Ma - ry we be - hold it. The

9

mf

those of old have sung. It came, a flow'r-et bright,
Vir - gin Moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right

mf

those of old have sung. It came, a flow'r-et bright,
Vir - gin Moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right

mf

8 those of old have sung. It came, a flow'r-et bright,
Vir - gin Moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right

mf

those of old have sung. It came, a flow'r-et bright,
Vir - gin Moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right

13

f *p* *pp*

A - mid the cold of win - ter, When half-spent was the night.
She bore to us a Sav - ior,

f *p* *pp*

A - mid the cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
She bore to us a Sav - ior,

f *p* *pp*

8 A - mid the cold of win - ter, When half-spent was the night.
She bore to us a Sav - ior,

f *p* *pp*

A - mid the cold of win - ter, When half-spent was the night.
She bore to us a Sav - ior,

SCRIPTURE — Phyllis Spencer

Luke 2:8-13, 15-16

Now in this same district there were shepherds out in the fields, keeping watch through the night over their flock, when suddenly there stood before them an angel of the Lord and the splendor of the Lord shone round them. They were terror-stricken, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid; I have good

news for you: there is great joy coming to the whole people. Today in the city of David a deliverer has been born to you—the Messiah, the Lord. And this is your sign; you will find the child wrapped in his swaddling clothes, in a manger.” All at once there was with the angel a great company of the heavenly host praising God and saying ... Gloria in excelsis Deo. After the angel had left them and gone into heaven the shepherds said to one another, “Come, we must go straight to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with all speed and found their way to Mary and Joseph; and the baby was lying in the manger.”

HOMILY: “To Be a Manger” — Rev. Johan Dodge

ANTHEM: “Would I Miss the Miracle?” — LWCC Music Team:

Jennifer Scoullar, *soprano*

Renée Albulario, *alto*

David Albulario, *tenor*

Hannah Yi, *pianist*

THE CEREMONY OF CANDLE LIGHTING (*Lights Out*) — Rev. Johan Dodge

Let us pray:

O Lord and giver of life, who gave to all the hope of everlasting life, grant that in truth we may seek your divine goodness; to the end that, ever guarded by your power, and conducted by the light of truth, we may offer to you glory and thanksgiving, now and for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

It was dark, and Jesus had not come to them in the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night.

The darkness was on the face of the earth; it filled the eyes and nostrils and hearts of humanity until all cried for light lest the world be swallowed in death.

[PAUSE]

But the darkness grew beyond the cries, beyond the winds of the world, for the darkness was the chaos of souls lost in the landscape of confusion until light could illumine human hearts.

Candle Lighters: Mo Ashley and Alvin Knowles

The darkness was long, and ignorance struggles in layers of darkness at the edge of existence until GOD TOOK LIGHT FROM LIGHT and with it opened the eyes of his children.

And God saw that this light was good, for this was the new light of the world.

With this light you shall perceive all that is in my world. This light is truth, and it shall make you free.

In this light will your souls, your minds, your spirits, your hearts be illumined.

With this light you will not fear the terror by night or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that walks in darkness or the destruction that wastes at noon.

From the beginning the new light, because it was good, dispelled layers of darkness, and those given it carried the light as it grew in living intensity in the long portals of their minds. The light found what was dark and showed the way that had been lost in the shadow of Babel. Yet, humanity did not embrace the light, for despite its misery it had grown fond of the darkness and fought against those who carried the light of truth.

But the brave keep coming. Not the prisons, the tortures of tyrants, not death could stop the search for that which is, for what the light reveals. The world was divided between those who sought life and light and those who would extinguish the light.

Thus, the light was sent from God as a living being, and he came saying:

How blest are those who know their need of God; The kingdom of heaven is theirs. How blest are the sorrowful; They shall find consolation. How blest are the meek; They are the strength of the world, because they are the tabernacles of God in the world. They are the little ones. They do not know themselves. The whole earth depends upon them. These are the ones for whom it was all created in the first place. They shall inherit the earth!

They are the only ones who will ever be able to enjoy life altogether. They alone appreciate the world and the things that are in it. They are the only ones capable of understanding God's joy. All else are too weak for that joy.

They are the clean of heart. They see God. Their luster and freedom are without limit. They reach out for us to comprehend our misery and drown it in the tremendous expansion of their own innocence, that washes the world with its light.

Come, let us go into the body of that light. Let us live in the cleanliness of that song. Let us throw off the darkness of the world. For this is what all hearts pray for when they cry out: "Thy will be done."

We long for the time when this light, this liberty, this truth, this unspeakable joy, this indefatigable love will catch us all and never let us go, when we shall never fall back from the Paradise of the meek and pure of heart into the forums of prudence where the wise of this world go up and down in sorrow and set their traps for a happiness that cannot exist.

Then, I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had vanished. I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice proclaiming from the throne: Now at last God is among the people. God will dwell among them, and they shall be God's people, and God shall be with them. God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be an end to death, and to mourning, crying, pain; for the old order has passed away.

Behold, I am making all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, and I will be their God and they shall be my people. It will be my gift to the thirsty.

The glory of God gave to the city its light, and its lamp was the lamb. By its light shall the nations walk, and the kings of the earth shall bring into it all their splendor. The gates of city shall never be shut by day – and there will be no night.

Then he showed me the river of the water of life, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God to a manger in a broken world, a tiny room filled with a new light that warmed a world bitter with cold. This is my son, whose light is truth and will never fade.

HYMN-CAROL: "Silent Night"

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight,
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

round yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so sing ten - der and mild,
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia.
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

sleep in heav - en - ly peace,
 Christ the Sav - iour is born,
 Je - sus, Lord at thy birth,

sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ the Sav - iour is born!
 birth.

BENEDICTION— Rev. Johan Dodge

Deep peace of the running wave to you
 Deep peace of the flowing air to you
 Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
 Deep peace of the shining stars to you
 Deep peace of the watching shepherds to you
 Deep peace of Christ, the Light of the World to you.

Music Team: Jennifer Scoullar, *Soprano*
 Renée Albulario, *Guest Alto*
 John Fluker, *Pianist*

Dave Albulario, *Tenor / Music Dir.*
 Hannah Yi, *Pianist*

Christmas Medley

Piano Arrangement by Michael Meier,
 including Christmas Carols, and music by
 Bach and Rachmaninoff

“Adéste Fidèles / O Come, All Ye Faithful”

18th Century English Hymn Carol
 Music and Words by John Francis Wade

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Music by Felix Mendelssohn, adapted by
 William H. Cummings, Words by Charles
 Wesley. Source: ChristmasCarolMusic.org

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

French Carol: *GLORIA*, Setting by Edward S.
 Barnes (before 1916), Translation by James
 Chadwick (1862), Public Domain, *Open*
Hymnal Project, 2005 Revision

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Traditional Basque Carol based on *ANGELUS*
AD VIRGINEM, Harm. by Charles E. Pettman,
 English paraphrase by Savine Baring-Gould

“The Little Drummer Boy”

Music and Words by Katherine Kennicott Davis,
 Arrangement by Pentatonix, transcribed by
 ABChords321, Adapted by David Albulario

“The First Noel / The First Nowell”

15th Century English Hymn Carol (Cornwall),
 First published in *Carols Ancient & Modern*
 (1823) edited by William Sandys

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

17th Century, German Carol, Harmony by
 Michael Praetorius, English Translation by
 Theodore Baker, Copyright © 1894, 1923 by G.
 Schirmer, Inc.

“Would I Miss the Miracle?”

Music by Douglas Nolan (BMI),
 Words by Pamela Stewart (BMI)
 Copyright © 2011 by Hal Leonard – Milwin
 Music Corp.

“Silent Night” / “Night of Silence”

Traditional German Carol *STILLE NACHT*,
 Music by Franz Gruber, alt., Word by Joseph
 Mohr; harm. by Carl H. Reinecke, English
 trans. John F. Young; “Night of Silence” Music
 and Words by Daniel Kantor

*All music herein transcribed & adapted by
 D. Albulario for Leisure World Community
 Church, Seal Beach, California.*



LEISURE WORLD COMMUNITY CHURCH

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562-431-2503

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PRAYER REQUESTS

- new** **Nancy Trujillo** – Nancy passed away Sunday morning, December 22, 2024. Prayers of comfort and strength for her family, and peaceful rest for Nancy.
- new** **Rev. Don Roe** – Former LWCC pastor, Rev. Don Roe passed away Tuesday, December 3, 2024. He served Community Church from 2014 to 2018. Prayers of comfort for his family, and peaceful rest for Pastor Don. *His memorial will take place on Saturday, February 2, 2025 at 10:30 AM, at St. Matthew's UMC, 15653 Newton St, Hacienda Heights 91745. Attire: **Dodger Blue**.*

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LITURGISTS: Each Sunday our Liturgists read aloud our scripture readings for Worship Service. As we prepare the schedule for the coming year, if you are interested in becoming a Liturgist, you are invited to speak with Phyllis Spencer, who will lead this ministry in 2025.

COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR: Coffee with the Pastor will **not** meet this week or next week. We will resume on Thursday, January 9, 2025.

POINSETTIAS GIVEN WITH LOVE

Donated by

In Memory / Honor of

LW Korean Community Church.....	Friendship with LW Community Church
Mo Ashley.....	Don & Rosie Ashley
Sandy Cardot.....	Kenneth & Dorothea Haviland Linda Haviland
Lois & Jim Dimos.....	Love, Peace, Joy, & Hope
Carmen Edwards.....	My Son, Lionel Garcia
Joyce Reed.....	My Husband, Jim; & My Son, Mike
Patty Jo Schmitz.....	My Son, B.C. Keller
Marylee Thomsen.....	The Thomsen Family

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone,
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known ...
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

"All are welcome in this place."