

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 22ND, 2024 | 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 10:00AM



OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Come, celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ with us! All are invited to sing, pray and participate in liturgy.

IF YOU ARE ABLE, WE INVITE YOU TO HONOR GOD BY STANDING.

PRELUDE

WHAT CHILD IS THIS
Tom Andrew, Piano

WILLIAM CHATTERTON DIX, 1871

WELCOME AND SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING: LOVE

THE MUZZARELLI FAMILY

Each Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of hope, a reminder to offer hope to others as we look forward with hope to the fulfillment of the promises from the days of old.

Then we light the candle of peace, a reminder that the way of Christ is the way of peaceful humility.

Last week, we lit the candle of joy, remembering how God takes joy in each of us, and remembering to rejoice at the promises fulfilled while also noticing the joyful moments that are glimpses of fulfillment of the promises we still wait on.

In the Gospel of Luke, Elizabeth and Mary rejoice together about their miracles of hope, and Elizabeth says to Mary: "Blessed is she who believed that there would be fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Blessed is she who believes there will be fulfillment.

Those who believe that the promises from of old will come true are called blessed.

Was it hard for Mary to believe?

I don't know. But I don't think whether or not it is hard to believe matters most.

What else matters?

Mary was convinced that the promise she carried was a promise of love - so she carried the promise in a loving way. She was peaceful, hopeful, joyful and loving as she waited. Maybe it was hard to believe at times, but she kept being as loving as she believed the promise to be.

So even if I find it hard to believe, some days, that the promises will come true, I can still live as though they are.

The greatest promise is that we are loved by the God who created us. Even when we have a hard time believing that, we can still live in a loving way as those who are beloved. This candle, the candle of love, reminds us that the promise from days of old is a promise of divine love.

Lighting this, we remember to love everyone - even ourselves - as God's beloved children. Come, let us worship God!

I LITANY: O ANTIPHONS

LUCAS GREENLEE

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, **you order all things with strength and gentleness: Come now and teach us the way to salvation.**

O Adonai, Ruler of the House of Israel,

you appeared in the burning bush to Moses and gave him the law on Sinai:

Come with outstretched arm to save us.

O Root of Jesse, rising as a sign for all the peoples;

before you earthly rulers will keep silent, and nations give you honor: Come quickly to deliver us.

O Key of David, Scepter over the house of Israel; you open and no one can close;

you close and no one can open: Come to set the prisoners free.

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light,

Sun of justice: Come, shine those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O Ruler of the nations, Monarch for whom the people long,

you are the cornerstone uniting all humanity: Come, save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

O Emmanuel, our Sovereign and lawgiver, desire of the nations Savior of all:

Come and save us, O Lord our God. Come, Lord Jesus.

INVITATION TO THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MOLLY SHIPTON

LESSON 1

ISAIAH 9:2, 6 - 7

A great light in the darkness

PAGE 1072

AWAY IN A MANGER

Mandy Nelson, Flute & Tom Andrew, Piano

W.J. KIRKPATRICK ARR. DANIEL LIGHT

LESSON 2

ISAIAH 11:1 - 4a, 6 - 9

A little child shall lead them

PAGES 1076 - 1077

I HYMN #144

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

ROSSETTI, 1872 & HOLST, 1906

LESSON 3

LUKE 1:26 - 35, 38

An angel appears to Mary

PASTOR TANYA MUZZARELLI

PAGE 1588

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and humble Christ, we long to be your servant. We long for a spirit that says, "Let it be with me according to your word." Too often we seek our own way instead of your way. Too often we assert our own will instead of conforming to your will. We forget that your way is the way of humility.

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON - FROM ISAIAH 35

The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom.

The people of God will return with joy and singing.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

I GLORIA PATRI

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.

I PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the Peace of Christ be with you; **And also with you.**

LESSON 4

LUKE 2:1 - 7

JOHN REID

Mary gives birth in Bethlehem

Page 1590

MARY'S LITTLE BOY CHILD

Ron Muzzarelli, Baritone

JESTER HAIRSTON

LESSON 5

LUKE 2:8 - 16

OLIVIA LANDI

Angels announce the Messiah

Page 1591

O HOLY NIGHT

Piper Greenlee, Flute & Tom Andrew, Piano

ADOLPHE-CHARLES ADAM ARR. CESAR MADEIRA

LESSON 6

MATTHEW 2:1 - 11

Magi come from the East

Pages 1497 - 1498

HYMN #151

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

JOHN H. HOPKINS

Kathy Clark, Tanya Muzzarelli and Renee O'Dell (congregation joins on refrain)

LESSON 7

JOHN 1:1 - 5, 10, 12 - 14

DAVID PEREZ-FERNANDEZ

And the Word became flesh

Pages 1645 - 1646

STILL, STILL, STILL

Elizabeth O'Leary, Contralto

GERMAN CAROL

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

I AM SO GLAD EACH CHRISTMAS EVE

MARTY HAUGEN

Monroe Family Singers

I DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessing flow; Praise God all creatures here Below;
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

I PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and glory forever. Amen.

I HYMN #136

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

WORK, 1940 & COSTEN, 1987

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD

G.F. HANDEL

Tom Andrew, Organ

SONG PERMISSIONS CCLI COPYRIGHT LICENSE 1207686, SIZE A/ONELICENSE A-725962.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO READ AND PROVIDED MUSIC TODAY!

USHERS: BRENDA BENNING, CURT GREENLEE, DON GREENLEE AND JACK GREENLEE

Throughout Advent, we light the **candles on the Advent wreath** to symbolize light growing in the darkness as we await the arrival of Christ, the light of the world.

We are grateful to Pastor Tanya Muzzarelli and her family for lighting the candles today.

Tuesday, December 24th 4pm Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight with the Handbell Choir

Sunday, December 29th 10am Hymn Sing

Sunday, January 5th Epiphany - Communion & Chili Cook-off and Undecorate after Worship

POINSETTIAS

Lon & Kathy Clark and Stephen Clark
David & Janet Ensminger
Jack & Jean Greenlee
Donna Hamilton
Kathy Meyer & Family
The Nelson Family

In Loving Memory of Max Clark and Leona Pickett
In Loving Memory of Richard Nortch
In Loving Memory of Our Son, Todd
In Loving Memory of Les Hamilton
In Loving Memory of Roger L. Meyer and Doris & Tim Pacek
In Loving Memory of Wayne Ashburn; Loren Buffington;
Gerald, Andrew & Rita Carter; Roger Cummings;
Roger & Betty Greenlee; Wayne & Vivian Greenlee;
Carolyn Miller; Richard Nortch; Lee Pickett;
Jeane Shallenberger and Richard Wheeler

Brian & Marisa O'Dell
The Ralston Family
Shannon Reagan & Family
Ed & April Rottman

In Loving Memory of Benjamin Robert O'Dell
In Loving Memory of Jim Ralston
In Loving Memory of My Grandparents, Tom & Pat Moore
In Loving Memory of Bill & Freeda McGaughy; Billy McGaughy
and Ken & Laurita Rottman

Gene & Carolyn Wheeler

In Loving Memory of Our Granddaughters, Leah & Amanda
and Our Parents

Carolyn J. Wheeler & Family

In Loving Memory of Dick Wheeler

O Antiphons: The name comes from the Greek word antiphon (ἀντίφωνον, ἀντί "opposite" and φωνή "voice"), which is a short chant sung as a refrain. The antiphons were designed to concentrate the mind on Advent with a complex series of references from the Old and New Testaments. In Latin, the first letters of these seven images of Christ - *Sapientia* (wisdom), *Adonia* (Lord), *Radix Jesse* (root of Jesse), *Clavis David* (Key of David), *Oriens* (Radiant Dawn), *Rex Gentium* (Ruler of the nations), *Emmanuel* (God with us) - make up a backward acrostic, spelling *ero cras*: "tomorrow I will [come]." We are most familiar with these seven images from the hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. By reciting them, we are lifting our hearts and voices in an Advent tradition that dates back to the 8th century. With the prayerful refrain "Come..." we confess our belief that Christ has come and Christ will come again, and we describe the One whose return we anticipate.

GRATITUDE BAGS

Please write a note of thanks for each Gratitude Bag in the Fellowship Hall.

The bags will be given to the staff after December 29th, 2024.

There are many folks who are not on staff who give lots of time and energy to our congregation.

Individual notes of thanks are always appreciated.

Let the Church Office know if you need anyone's contact information.

Remember the **special Christmas trees** that help us celebrate and give this season:

The *small tree on the landing* is for your Christmas cards for your church family, and you can put any money you may have used on postage in the can to benefit Kemmerer Village.

The *tree in the Education Wing* is for hats and mittens to warm those in need.

Thank you for the many ways you share and give throughout this season!

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 22nd	10a	Worship - Lessons & Carols , 11a Fellowship, 11:30a Youth Caroling
Monday 23rd		Argyle Preschool Winter Break 12/23/24 - 1/3/25
Tuesday 24th	4p	Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion
Wednesday 25th		Merry Christmas! - Church Office Closed
Thursday 26th		No Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 29th	10a	Worship - Hymn Sing , 11a Fellowship

"A Faith Community, Growing Together, Sharing the love of Christ"

MINISTERS: ALL MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

For more information about our staff and volunteers, visit our website. **The Church Office is open Mon., Wed. & Fri. 8:30a-3p.** If you'd like to set up a time to visit Pastor Lauren or Pastor Tanya, please reach out to the Church Office.

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