



worship

at Altadena Valley Presbyterian Church

Welcome to Altadena Valley

We are glad you are here.

Please visit our website at www.avpc.org for more information about our beliefs, our staff and our ministries.

Here are a few details which might be helpful to you.

- Children are always welcome to participate in worship with their families. But, in case you need it, we do offer childcare for children ages 3 and under during both morning services. Please ask an usher or greeter for directions to where the childcare area is located.
- Children ages 4 through Grade 1 are invited to attend Worship Center. They may meet their teachers in the Welcome Center after the Pastoral Prayer. (The worship leader will indicate when the children can exit the sanctuary.) If you are a first- or second-time visitor, please walk with your child so you are able to register them. Children may be picked up in Sunday School classes after the early service and in the Worship Center Room after the late service.
- A Nursing Mother's room, with an audio feed of the service, is located just outside the Sanctuary, next to the Parlor.
- As part of our discipleship efforts, we are pleased to offer Sunday School for all ages during the hours of 9:45-10:45. Information sheets with a location map of all classes and a list of topics for the adult classes are available in the Welcome Center and Parlor.

If you are visiting with us, we would love an opportunity to get to know you better. Please scan the QR code below, or sign the pew registry pad. We give our first-time visitors a small gift, which you can get in the Welcome Center or Narthex.

In consideration of others, please silence all electronic devices.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 10, 2023 | 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Second Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

“Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)”

Light of the World, Treasure of Heaven, brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky. Joy of the Father, reach through the darkness, shine across the earth, send the shadows to flight. Light of the World, from the beginning the tragedies of time were no match for your love. From great heights of glory, you saw my story. God, you entered in and became one of us. Sing hallelujah! Sing hallelujah for the things he has done. Come and adore him; bow down before him. Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World. Light of the world, crown in a manger, born for the cross, to suffer, to save. High King of Heaven, death is the poorer. We are the richer by the price that he paid. Light of the World soon will be coming. With fire in his eyes, he will ransom his own. Through clouds he will lead us straight into glory and there he shall reign forevermore.

Words and music by Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, and Scott Cash.

On this second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle to remind us that we must receive Jesus as he is offered to us in the gospel. May God Himself, using the example of Mary and Joseph, lead us to receive Jesus, the only Redeemer of his people. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE • Matthew 1:18-25

Matt & Lauren Hall Family (8:30 AM Service)

Luke & Sarah Bishop (11:00 AM Service)

CALL TO WORSHIP • Adapted from Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:6-11

(Leader) When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, Christ Jesus, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

(Congregation) Joy to the world; the Lord has come!

And Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Joy to the world; the Lord has come!

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Joy to the world; the Lord has come!

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(All) Joy to the world; the Lord has come!

INVOCATION

THE WELCOME OF GOD

SONGS OF PRAISE

“Joy to the World”

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

Through God’s Word, his people are called to enter into his presence in corporate worship.

Our welcome of one another is a tangible expression of God’s welcome to us.

PLEASE STAND

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow; Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found.

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.

“What Love My God”

What love, my God, would bring you down to earth?
What king would take a low and lonely birth?
Yet to this dark and broken place you came
To sleep beneath the stars that you had made.

What love, my God, would send the Way of Life
To walk the road rejected and despised,
That you might know the weakness I possess
And be my rock of strength and righteousness?

*(Chorus) O your love, my God, like a flood
As heaven opened up pouring out on us.
O praise the King who came to the world
In his love like a mighty flood.*

What love, my God, could hold you to the tree
To bear that overwhelming debt for me?
The Son of heaven leaves the Father's side;
The Healer bleeds, the Life was made to die. *(Chorus)*

What love, my God, so gracious and extreme
Was strong enough to come and fight for me,
To go through hell and down into the grave
And raise me up to see you face to face?
You raise me up to see you face to face. *(Chorus)*

Words and music by Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, and Rich Thompson.

“Away In a Manger” (11:00 AM Service)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

PLEASE BE SEATED

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, it is Advent. It is the season in which we prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, who is the bringer of all peace. We confess to you the ways in which we block the peace of Christ in our lives. God of peace, hear our prayer.

The rushing and scurrying to get things done,
we confess to you, O God of peace.

The worry about the little details,
we confess to you, O God of peace.

The financial burdens we put on ourselves,
we confess to you, O God of peace.

The impatience and irritability we feel and take out on one another,
we confess to you, O God of peace.

The bickering and quarreling we get into because we are too busy,
we confess to you, O God of peace.

Though we make ourselves less than peaceful at this time of the year, your peace is always there for us.

Instill within us your peace, O God.

When we feel overwhelmed,

instill within us your peace, O God.

When we are filled with worry,

instill within us your peace, O God.

When we become irritable,

instill within us your peace, O God.

When the guilt of our ways threatens to overcome us, help us to remember that we are forgiven in Christ.

Instill within us your peace, O God.

Instill within us your peace and help us to make choices that bring us closer to you. Help us to be more peaceful so that we may spread Christ's peace and love to others.

In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Worship Sourcebook D.2.2.12.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps. In Christ, God's salvation is at hand, and righteousness has come.

(All) Thanks be to God!

Based on Psalm 85:9-13, NRSV Worship Sourcebook D.2.4.1.

*We encourage you
to use this time for
silent reflection.*

*We receive
assurance that in
Christ Jesus, God's
salvation is at hand
and righteousness
has come.*

PLEASE STAND

HYMN OF RESPONSE • #210

“Silent Night”

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
“Alleluia to our King”; Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

PLEASE BE SEATED

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE (8:30 AM Service)

“What Child is This?”

What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary. Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent word is pleading. Nail, spear, shall pierce Him through; the cross be borne for me, for you: Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own Him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him. Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby: Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

Arrangement by Howard Helvey.

CHILDREN'S CHORAL RESPONSE (11:00 AM Service)

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us. Sing for joy, sing for mirth when he came down to earth, Bethlehem saw his birth; ox and sheep beside him from the cold would hide him. **Ideo, gloria in excelsis Deo!* On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring, praising Christ, heaven's King, born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

Words and music from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582. Arrangement by Ashley Brooke.

** English Translation:
“Therefore [we sing],
'Glory to God in the
highest.'”*

(At this time, children ages 4 through Grade 1 are invited to attend Worship Center. They will exit to the Welcome Center to meet their teachers. If you are a first- or second-time visitor, please walk with your child so you are able to register them. Children may be picked up in Sunday School classes after the early service and in the Worship Center Room after the late service.)

SCRIPTURE READING • Romans 15:22-33

^{15:22} This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you.

²³ But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, ²⁴ I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while. ²⁵ At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. ²⁷ For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. ²⁸ When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. ²⁹ I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

³⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, ³¹ that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ³² so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. ³³ May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

SERMON • “Lessons On Planning” Rev. Brad Allison

One of the benefits of Romans being a letter and not a theological treatise is the presence of passages like the one before us today. Paul here talks about his future travel plans, thus giving us insight into what is involved with good planning and the decision-making surrounding that activity. I love the fact that the gospel helps us in such common activities. I see in this passage three principles in gospel planning.

I. We Make Our Plans in Faith

II. We Hold Our Plans Lightly

III. We Fight for Our Plans in Prayer

*As an act of
worship, we give
back to God a
portion of our
many blessings.*

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

SONG OF RESPONSE

“All the Way My Savior Leads Me / Have Thine Own Way”

All the way my Savior leads me, what have I to ask beside? Can I doubt his tender mercy, who through life has been my guide? Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in him to dwell; for I know whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well. All the way my Savior leads me, cheers each winding path I tread, gives me grace for ev'ry trial, feeds me with the living bread. Though my weary steps may falter, and my soul athirst may be, gushing from the Rock before me, lo, a spring of joy I see! All the way my Savior leads me—O the fullness of his love! Perfect rest to me is promised in my Father's house above: when my spirit, clothed, immortal, wings its flight to realms of day, this my song through endless ages, “Jesus led me all the way!” So have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way. Thou are the potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me after thy will, while I am waiting yielded and still.

HYMN OF RESPONSE • #223 (vs. 1-4, 6)

PLEASE STAND

“While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks”

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around; and glory shone around.

“Fear not,” said he—for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind—
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind; to you and all mankind.”

“To you, in David’s town this day,
Is born of David’s line,
The Savior, who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign; and this shall be the sign.”

“The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.; and in a manger laid.”

“All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth, from heav’n to men,
Begin and never cease; begin and never cease!”

BENEDICTION

*Our worship
concludes with
God sending us
into the world
with his blessing.*

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WEEKLY BIBLE READING (December 11 - December 17)

1 Timothy 1-3 • 1 Timothy 4-6 • 2 Timothy 1-2 • 2 Timothy 3-4 • 1 Peter 1-2

Announcements

OUR MISSION OF THE WEEK is LOGOI. Directed by Ed Thompson, LOGOI provides Bible college and seminary training for Latin American church leaders. Over 100,000 students have taken at least one year of LOGOI's Bible studies in 22 different countries. AVPC has supported LOGOI for over 20 years.

- **DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Following the AVPC tradition, we will have joint Sunday school in the Fellowship Hall through December. We will have a Youth-led Christmas carol sing today, and the Children's Christmas Pageant on December 17. There will be no Sunday School on December 24 or 31.
- **LESSONS & CAROLS:** Our annual Lessons and Carols Service, featuring the AVPC Chancel Choir, Orchestra, Bell Trio, Preschool Praisers, and other AVPC musicians, is this evening at 6:00 PM. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a homemade Christmas sweet to share (enough for 25 people) and drop it off in the kitchen. Dinner will be provided. Please note that doors will open for seating in the Sanctuary at 5:15 PM. You will not be able to save seats. Childcare will be provided through age three during the service.
- **YOUTH-LED CHRISTMAS CAROL SING:** Join us today during the Sunday school hour for a time of worship led by the AVPC youth in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a great time of worship and fellowship.
- **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** Sunday, December 17, children ages 4 - 6th grade will perform the Christmas story for the congregation during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall. Saturday, December 16, there will be a rehearsal for all children participating in the Children's Christmas pageant in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Following this rehearsal, there will be a pizza party. See you there!
- **HOLIDAY SERVICE TIMES:** On December 24 and December 31, we will have only one worship service at 10:00 AM. There will be no Sunday School.
- **FELLOWSHIP LUNCH:** Join us after the 10:00 AM service on December 31 for a soup and bread lunch in the Fellowship Hall.
- **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES:** Join us on December 24 for our candlelight service. There will be an early service at 4:30 PM and a late service at 6:00 PM.
- **ON THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM FAMILY DEVOTIONALS:** Join your AVPC family as we are "On the Road to Bethlehem" throughout this Advent season. Pick up your Advent family resource packet in the Welcome Center, Parlor, or AVPC Kids table.
- **GENERAL FUND BUDGET:** Preliminary copies of the General Fund Budget are now available. You can find a copy of the budget in the Parlor, Welcome Center, or on the AVPC website.

Calendar

SUNDAY (DECEMBER 10)

- 8:30 AM Worship Service
- 9:45 AM Joint Sunday School - Christmas Carols
- 11:00 AM Worship Service
Brad | Romans 15:22-33
- 3:45 PM Lessons & Carols Rehearsal
- 6:00 PM Lessons & Carols Service
- 7:30 PM Lessons & Carols Reception

TUESDAY (DECEMBER 12)

- 6:00 PM Joint Officers' Dinner
- 7:00 PM Diaconate Meeting
Session Meeting

WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 13)

- 10:00 AM GHK Christmas Program
- 6:15 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAY (DECEMBER 14)

- 9:00 AM Men's Coffee

SATURDAY (DECEMBER 16)

- 9:00 AM Children's Pageant Rehearsal

SUNDAY (DECEMBER 17)

- 8:30 AM Worship Service
- 9:45 AM Joint Sunday School - Children's Christmas Pageant
- 11:00 AM Worship Service
Brad | Micah 5:1-6
- 5:00 PM Community Groups

SAVE THE DATE - MORE INFORMATION COMING

DECEMBER

- 10 - Lessons & Carols (6:00 PM)
- 17 - AVPC Children's Christmas Pageant
- 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
(4:30 PM & 6:00 PM)
- 31 - Fellowship Lunch

SPRING 2024

- February 7-11 - Missions Conference
- March 1-2 - Women's Retreat
- March 31 - Easter Sunday
- May 5 - Youth Sunday

	Contributions for the Week	Year-To-Date Contributions	Year-To-Date Requirements	Over(Under) Budget
General Fund	\$38,657	\$1,243,134	\$1,272,580	(\$29,447)
Faith Promise	\$11,025	\$264,817	\$269,055	(\$4,238)

AVPC VISION

A community of Christ's coming kingdom, bringing hope to a broken world.

AVPC MISSION

Loving God and loving others as we are transformed by his love.

PASTORAL STAFF

Bradford E. Allison
Senior Pastor

Stephen Whitner
Associate Pastor—Worship

Michael MacCaughelty
Associate Pastor—Outreach/Mercy

Blake Harris
Associate Pastor—Adult Ministries

CHURCH LEADERS

ELDERS

David Allen Steve Barley Brian Beckett Grahame Bobo Clint Cvacho Nicholas Ireland
Brent McClenny Jack Morris Barry Parker Karl Poythress Thomas Prettyman Danny Wachs

DEACONS

Woody Armstrong Hunter Boggs David Coley Al Foster Trey Holmes Matt Jackson Russell Lloyd
Josh Moore John Peters Josh Putman Bill Sommer Rob Wise Ed Wofford

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Heather Sommer
Women's Ministry Director

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Catie Lumpkin Allie Campbell
Children's Director Nursery Director

Mary Frances Snyder
Children's Administrative Assistant

Amanda Amerson Caroline Cwynar
*Children's Preteen
Ministry Assistant Coordinator*

YOUNG ADULTS & MEN'S MINISTRIES

Blake Harris
Associate Pastor

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Clint Cvacho
Youth Director
Callen Moyer
Girls' Discipleship Director
Michael Whitner
Youth Worship Leader

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACILITY

Anna Waldrip
Church Administrator
Connor Bingham
Administrative Assistant
Heather Sommer
Financial Secretary
Dave Mayhew Hillary Gamble
Facilities Manager Kitchen Coordinator

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Heather Sommer
Worship Ministry Assistant
Young jin Jeon
Organist
Carol Apol & Ricky Klose
Sound Ministry Directors