

A light gray, stylized graphic of a leafy branch, possibly a vine, extending from the top right towards the center of the page. The leaves are simple, rounded shapes with visible veins.

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 15, 2024 | 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Third Sunday of Advent

"Actually, we do everything we can, whether it is in a philosophic sense or a practical sense, to put ourselves at the center of the universe."

"As a Christian, I do not have to find my validity in my status, or by thinking myself above other men. My validity and my status are found in being before the God who is there..."

The Lord calls us to love all people, including those who are enemies of the gospel and those who blaspheme. This may not be comfortable, and it may not be easy, but this is the gospel of Christ, for He loved His enemies so much that He died to save us."

— Francis Schaeffer

"Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home."

— G.K. Chesterton

"It all means more than I can tell you. So you must not judge what I know by what I find words for."

— Marilynne Robinson

On this Third Sunday of Advent, we light the candle to remind us that the birth of Jesus represents the "dawn of redeeming grace" for us all. May we rejoice and praise God as the shepherds did over 2,000 years ago. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

PRELUDE

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

In the bleak midwinter, icy wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone. Snow on snow had fallen, snow on snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long and long ago. Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim rising in the air. Oh - but only Mary, in her maiden bliss, worshipped the beloved with a mother's kiss. Heaven cannot hold him, nor can earth sustain; heaven and earth shall fall away when he comes to reign. What then can I give him, empty as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would know my part. What then can I give him: I must give my heart.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE • Luke 2:8-20

Danny & Carly Price Family (8:30 AM Service)

Claude & Tina Dorsey (11:00 AM Service)

CALL TO WORSHIP • Adapted from Psalm 8; Luke 2:14

(Leader) O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

(All) Your glory is above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babies and children you established strength to still the foe and the avenger.

We look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you set in place; what is man that you are mindful of us, and the son of man that you care for him?

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to those in Christ!"

You made Jesus a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You gave him dominion over the works of your hands and put all things under his feet; all life, every man, all of creation!

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

INVOCATION

THE WELCOME OF GOD

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 and welcome one another.

SONGS OF PRAISE

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings,
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful Savior,

**We declare our willingness to be loved by you,
yet when stressed,
we often turn inward to vice
and to comparison with others.**

**We confess our readiness to seek your forgiveness,
yet when angry,
we hold fast to sins that promise to comfort us,
and to bitterness that promises to protect us.**

**It is Advent; allow the growing patterns of anticipation
to lead us deeper still
into the true comfort,
the lasting assurance,
and the real beauty
of our life in you.**

**Father, through the Holy Spirit,
build within us and among us,
the obedience displayed in Mary,
the joy expressed in the shepherds,
and the peace that only comes in Christ.**

In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Adapted from Worship Sourcebook D.2.2.5.

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

SILENT CONFESSION

HYMN OF RESPONSE (11:00 AM Service)

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When halfspent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior,
When halfspent was the night.

The shepherds heard the story, proclaimed by angels bright,
How Christ, the Lord of glory, was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped, and in the manger found him,
As angel heralds said.

This flow'r whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God; from sin and death he saves us
And lightens ev'ry load.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Lord God declares, “I have fulfilled the promise I made to you, my people. I have caused a righteous Branch to spring up from the line of David, and His name is Jesus. He has executed justice and righteousness, He has brought salvation to you, and in Him, you will dwell securely.”

(All) Thanks be to God!

Based on Jeremiah 33:14-16.

Please remain seated. We invite you to join in singing with the praise team.

HYMN OF RESPONSE • #224

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.*

The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.*

Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE BE SEATED

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE (8:30 AM Service)

“Ding Dong! Merrily on High”

Ding Dong! Merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing; Ding Dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angels singing: “*Gloria, Hosanna in Excelsis!” E'en so here below let steeple bells be swungen, and **I-O, I-O, I-O, by priest and people sungen, “Gloria, Hosanna in Excelsis!” Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers: may you beautifully rhyme your evetime song, ye singers. Gloria, Hosanna in Excelsis!

Based on a French Carol. Arranged by Howard Helvey.

* “Gloria, Hosanna in Excelsis” is Latin for “Glory! Praise in the highest” which is taken from the angels’ proclamation to the shepherds.

** “I-O” is a Latin exclamation similar to the English, “Hooray!”

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

“Carol of the Star”

A star, a shining star, led wise men on their way to find that Bethlehem town where lay a holy babe. **Venite adoremus Dominum*. A star, a guiding star led angels from above to see a tiny babe, surround him with their love. A star, a mighty star, did shine o'er all the earth to welcome him with joy, proclaim his wondrous birth.

Based on a French Carol. Arranged by Donald Moore.

* “*Venite adoremus Dominum*” is the Latin translation for “Come adore the Lord.”

(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 • Colossians 2:6-15

^{2:6} Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

I. Jesus Provides the Whole Truth

II. Jesus Provides a Whole Transformation

III. Jesus Provides a Whole Testimony

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

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

SONG OF RESPONSE

“When Hope Came Down”

*“All of the angels
lifted up their
voices and filled
the night with
Hallelujahs. God
is with us now.
Everyone come
and join the
heav’nly chorus.
Our Savior, King is
here before us.”*

So this is how it was, a silent night like any other, when heaven sent the One, the One that we would call our Savior. And redemption began in a stable in Bethlehem. All of the angels lifted up their voices and filled the night with Hallelujahs. God is with us now. Everyone come and join the heav’nly chorus. Our Savior, King is here before us. Oh, to hear the sound, the song creation sang when Hope came down. So this was truly God wrapped up in a tattered blanket. Love was finally here, sleeping while the world awakened, and redemption began with a baby in Bethlehem. So let us sing Redemption’s song. Let us worship Christ the Holy One. We were lost, but we were found when Hope came down.

Words and Music by Ben Glover and Kari Jobe.

HYMN OF RESPONSE • #222 (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.

“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, 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.”

“The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
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!”

BENEDICTION

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

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WEEKLY BIBLE READING (December 16 - December 22)

1 Peter 3-4 • 1 Peter 5; 2 Peter 1 • 2 Peter 2-3 • 1 John 1-3 • 1 John 4-5

Announcements

OUR MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK are Justin and Alanna Huston who work with Serge in leadership development.

- **CHILDREN'S ADVENT DEVOTIONALS:** Join your AVPC family as we read through "Fear Not, For Behold" this Advent season. Pick up your Advent family devotionals in the Welcome Center, Parlor, the AVPC Kids table, or on the church website.
- **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DECEMBER 15:** The Session has called a congregational meeting on December 15, 2024, in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45). We will elect officers at this meeting and consider proposed changes to the AVPC bylaws. A list of the officer nominees and a description of the proposed bylaws changes are available in the Parlor and Welcome Center. Copies can also be found on the church website.
- **LESSONS & CAROLS:** Our annual Lessons and Carols Service, featuring the AVPC Chancel Choir, Orchestra, Preschool Choir, and other AVPC musicians, is this evening at 6:00 PM. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Please note that doors will open 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.
- **YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Join us this Thursday, December 19, 6:30-8:30 PM at the home of Russell and Katey Windsor (5560 Double Oak Lane) for a night of feasting with friends, celebrating the joy of Advent, and playing Grey Sea Wolf (our version of white elephant)!
- **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES:** Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be at 4:30 PM and at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Childcare will be available through age 3 for the 4:30 PM service.
- **HOLIDAY SERVICE TIMES:** On December 29, we will have only one worship service at 10:00 AM. This will be a family worship service for all ages. There will be no Sunday School.
- **KID'S BRIDGE NIGHTS:** Kid's Bridge Nights will resume on January 12. Join us as we jump into the wonder of God's redemptive story and plan for His people through games, crafts, silly snacks, and music. This is an excellent time to invite friends and neighbors!
- **LEGACY MUSEUM TRIP:** The Mercy Leadership Team is inviting you to visit the Equal Justice Initiative's Legacy Museum in Montgomery on Saturday, January 18, 2025. The Legacy Museum is part of the vision of Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy*, a powerful book and movie informed by a Christian perspective about the injustices related to racism and material poverty in our justice system, and how to respond in a Biblical manner.
- **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** We are seeking a full-time Financial Administrator. We desire to hire someone who is a mature Christian, experienced in the financial sector, and able to operate with flexibility. A full job description and application is available on the church website. Applications are due by January 5, 2025 via email to info@avpc.org.

Calendar

SUNDAY (DECEMBER 15)

8:30 AM Worship Service
 Kyle Parker | Colossians 2:1-7

9:45 AM Congregational Meeting in the
 Fellowship Hall

11:00 AM Worship Service

3:30 PM Lessons & Carols Rehearsal

6:00 PM Lessons & Carols Service

TUESDAY (DECEMBER 17)

7:00 PM Joint Officer's Meeting

WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 18)

6:15 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAY (DECEMBER 19)

9:00 AM Men's Coffee

6:30 PM Young Adult's Christmas Party

SUNDAY (DECEMBER 22)

8:30 AM Worship Service
 Kyle Parker | Colossians 2:7-15

9:45 AM Christmas Carol Sing in the
 Fellowship Hall

11:00 AM Worship Service

SAVE THE DATE - MORE INFORMATION COMING

December 22 – Christmas Carols (Sunday School)

January 18 – Equal Justice Museum Trip

December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight
 Services (4:30 & 6:00 PM)

February 5-9 – AVPC Missions Conference

| | Contributions for the Week | Year-To-Date Contributions | Year-To-Date Requirements | Over(Under) Budget |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| General Fund | \$233,875 | \$1,640,523 | \$1,459,211 | \$181,312 |
| Faith Promise | \$13,090 | \$264,148 | \$278,094 | (\$13,946) |

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

Kyle Parker
Senior Pastor

Stephen Whitner
Associate Pastor—Worship

Michael MacCaughelty
Associate Pastor—Outreach/Mercy

Blake Harris
Associate Pastor—Adult Ministries

CHURCH LEADERS

ELDERS

Paul Barber Steve Barley Brian Beckett Grahame Bobo Brent McClenny Jack Morris
Barry Parker Karl Poythress Thomas Prettyman Danny Wachs John Wimberly

DEACONS

Woody Armstrong Hunter Boggs Zac Campbell David Coley Steve Driggers Al Foster Trey Holmes Matt Jackson
Russell Lloyd Tom McCallum Josh Moore John Peters Darren Popwell Josh Putman Drew Russell Bill Sommer Ed Wofford

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Heather Sommer
Women's Ministry Director

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Catie Lumpkin Alli Campbell
Children's Director Nursery Director

Danielle Harris
Children's Administrative Assistant

Amanda Amerson
Children's Ministry Assistant

YOUNG ADULTS & MEN'S MINISTRIES

Blake Harris
Associate Pastor

Nick Moyer
College Ministry Assisitant

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Clint Cvacho
Youth Director

Callen Moyer
Girls' Discipleship Director

Hannah Snow
Youth Worship Intern

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACILITY

Anna Waldrip
Church Administrator

Connor Bingham
Administrative Assistant

Dave Mayhew Heather Sommer
Facilities Manager Financial Administrator

Michael Bobo Hillary Gamble
IT Director Kitchen Coordinator

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Heather Sommer
Worship Ministry Assistant

Young jin Jeon
Organist

Carol Apol & Ricky Klose
Sound Ministry Directors