



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 17, 2023 | 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

"Gloria"

There were shepherds out in the field keeping their flocks by night. An angel of God came to them and glory shone all around. Glory in the highest, peace on earth, good will to men. Behold, I bring good news: a child is born today in city of David, a Savior, Christ the Lord.

Words based on Luke 2. Music by Zachary Snow.

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

Brad & Wendy Allison (8:30 AM Service)

Susan Cummins (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! You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

(All) Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

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.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

Glorify God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

Glorify God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

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

Adapted from Psalm 8 and Luke 2:14.

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

INVOCATION

THE WELCOME OF GOD

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.

PLEASE STAND

"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."

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

*(Chorus) 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. *(Chorus)*

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

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

PLEASE BE SEATED

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Christ,

**We confess our willingness to be loved
but also our reluctance to love.**

**We confess our readiness
to accept your forgiving love
but also our refusal to forgive.**

**We confess our eagerness
to grasp your offer of redeeming love
but also our resistance to follow you without question.**

**In this Advent time,
forgive us our failure
to respond as we should.**

**Come to us anew, and by your grace,
assist us to receive you
with joy, as the shepherds;
with gratitude, as Simeon;
with obedience, as Mary;
with love, as you have loved us.**

Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Worship Sourcebook D.2.2.5.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

SONG OF RESPONSE (11:00 AM Service)

“Give Me Jesus”

In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise,
In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.

*(Chorus 1) Give me Jesus. Give me Jesus.
You can have all this world, but give me Jesus.*

And when I am alone, and when I am alone,
And when I am alone, give me Jesus. *(Chorus 1)*

And when I come to die, and when I come to die,
And when I come to die, give me Jesus.

*(Chorus 2) Give me Jesus. Give me Jesus.
You can have all this world, you can have all this world,
You can have all this world, but give me Jesus.*

*The congregation
is invited to join
in singing.*

*We receive
assurance that in
Christ Jesus, we are
made right with
God.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." People of God, Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce in this season, is our righteousness. In Christ, we are made right with God.

(All) Thanks be to God!

Worship Sourcebook D.2.4.3 Based on Jeremiah 33:14-16, NRSV.

PLEASE STAND

HYMN OF RESPONSE • #221 (vs. 1-4)

"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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE BE SEATED

PASTORAL PRAYER

(For the late service only, 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 • Micah 5:1-6

^{5:1} Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops;
siege is laid against us;
with a rod they strike the judge of Israel
on the cheek.

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he shall be their peace.

When the Assyrian comes into our land
and treads in our palaces,
then we will raise against him seven shepherds
and eight princes of men;

⁶ they shall shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword,
and the land of Nimrod at its entrances;
and he shall deliver us from the Assyrian
when he comes into our land
and treads within our border.

SERMON • “Bethlehem” Rev. Brad Allison

Despite being a small and insignificant town, Bethlehem figures prominently in the story of Jesus. It was the place of Jesus’ birth, which led both to its great honor and to great suffering when Herod sought to destroy any potential rival king by slaughtering the innocent little baby boys born there. The prophet Micah had prophesied that Bethlehem would be ground zero in God’s invasion of our broken planet. As such, it becomes true to its name, which means “house of bread,” because it was the place where the bread of life came from heaven to earth

I. Little Bethlehem

II. Suffering Bethlehem

III. Great Bethlehem

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

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Bethlehem”

Starlight in a mother’s eyes, a Holy Child is born. Kings and shepherds on their knees adoring Christ the Lord. Bethlehem, Bethlehem, behold your beautiful Savior! Fall down, worship him, the King born in Bethlehem. He knew the secrets of the world, His lips could not yet speak. Heaven wrapped in flesh and blood; the Son of Majesty. Fall down, worship the Hope of Israel. Come and adore him, Jesus Emmanuel.

Words and Music by Chris Tomlin and Ed Cash. “O Little Town of Bethlehem” words by Phillips Brooks and music by Lewis H. Redner.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav’n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

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WEEKLY BIBLE READING (December 18 - December 24)

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 Jesse and Reba Lothar who are serving on a church planting team in Tokyo, Japan. With a focus on college students, they will concentrate on getting them active in the local church through Bible studies, small groups, and outreach events.

- **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** Join us today during the Sunday School hour for the children's Christmas pageant. Children ages 4 - 6th grade will perform the Christmas story for the congregation in the Fellowship Hall. See you there!
- **CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED:** The church offices will be closed on Friday, December 22 and Monday, December 25 in observance of Christmas.
- **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.
- **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. On the morning of December 24 there will not be childcare provided, but there will be childcare provided on December 31.
- **FELLOWSHIP LUNCH:** Join us after the 10:00 AM service on December 31 for a soup and bread lunch in the Fellowship Hall. You can sign up to bring bread on the AVPC website.
- **LOST AND FOUND:** If you are missing any items please check the lost and found shelf, located in the church office next to the Parlor door. Any unclaimed items will be cleaned out January 2.
- **LEGACY MUSEUM TRIP:** The Mercy Leadership Team is inviting you to visit the Equal Justice Initiative's Legacy Museum in Montgomery on Saturday, January 13, 2024. 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.
- **MEMBERSHIP NIGHT:** Are you thinking about church membership at Altadena? Come to our next Membership Event on Friday, January 19. Dinner is served at 6:00 PM, followed by an informational meeting. You will meet church staff and hear about ministry opportunities. You can sign up on the AVPC website under the Events - Event Registrations tab. Attendance at this or another weekend offered is required for church membership. The deadline to register is January 14.
- **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.
- **LESSONS AND CAROLS:** Thank you to everyone who served and helped make this year's Lessons and Carols a wonderful event. It was a sweet time of fellowship and community. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to making beautiful music and serving our community.

Calendar

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

FRIDAY (DECEMBER 22)

* **CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED***

SUNDAY (DECEMBER 24)

10:00 AM Worship Service
 Blake | Revelation 22:20-21
 4:30 PM Christmas Eve Service - Early
 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service - Late

SAVE THE DATE - MORE INFORMATION COMING

DECEMBER

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

SPRING 2024

January 19 - Membership Night
 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	\$37,346	\$1,280,480	\$1,324,053	(\$43,573)
Faith Promise	\$4,295	\$269,112	\$284,966	(\$15,854)

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