

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](http://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 22, 2024 | 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

*"Christmas is fast approaching. And now that Christ has aroused our seasonal expectations, he'll soon fulfill them all!"*

— Augustine

### 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 Fourth 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 follow the example of the wise men with joyful and exuberant worship of Jesus, our Redeemer. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.*

### THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE • Matthew 2:1-12

Jennifer Rush (8:30 AM Service)

Rod & Renee Chase (11:00 AM Service)

*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.*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP • from Luke 2:10-14 ; Psalm 118: 24**

(Leader) I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

**(All) Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!**

(Leader) This is the day the Lord has made;

**(All) Let us rejoice and be glad in it. O come, let us adore Him.**

## **INVOCATION**

## **THE WELCOME OF GOD**

## **SONGS OF PRAISE**

### **“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God in the highest!  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

**“Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery” (8:30 AM Service)**

Come, behold the wondrous mystery in the dawning of the King.  
He, the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.  
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come.  
Look to Christ who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come, behold the wondrous mystery, he the perfect Son of Man.  
In his living, in his suffering, never trace, nor stain of sin.  
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man.  
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in him we stand.

Come, behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree.  
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.  
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold.  
Bringing many sons to glory; grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come, behold the wondrous mystery, slain by death, the God of life.  
But no grave could e'er restrain him. Praise the Lord, he is alive!  
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope.  
Christ, in power resurrected as we will be when he comes.

Words and Music by Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Michael Bleecker.

## **"The First Noel"**

The first Noel, the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same Star,  
The wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a King was their intent,  
And to follow the Star wherever it went.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

This Star drew nigh to the northwest,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in full rev'rently,  
The wise men bowing upon their knees  
And offered there in his presence  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

## **CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, you sent a star  
to guide the Magi to the child, Jesus.**

**We confess that often  
we have not followed the light of your Word.**

**We have not searched for signs of your love in the world  
or trusted your good news to be good.**

**We have failed to praise your Son's birth  
and refused his peace on earth.**

**We have expected little and hoped for less.**

**Forgive our doubt  
and renew in us all fine desires,  
that we may watch and wait  
and once more hear the glad story  
of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord.**

**In his name we pray. Amen.**

Worship Sourcebook E.2.2.5.

PLEASE BE SEATED

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

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

## SONG OF RESPONSE

*(Congregation singing.)*

### **“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.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Sing aloud and shout, O people of God! Rejoice and exult with all your hearts! Jesus Christ, your Lord and Redeemer, has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. Jesus Christ, your Lord and King, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. Do not fear; do not let your hands grow weak. Jesus Christ, your Lord and God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

### **Thanks be to God!**

Based on Zephaniah 3:14-18, NRSV.



## **HYMN OF RESPONSE • #213**

PLEASE STAND

### **“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.

Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

PLEASE BE SEATED

### **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:00 AM Service)**

Marie Jubinville; Gretchen Parker; Zach, Jessica, Hannah, Emma, Micah, and Joshua Snow

## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** (11:00 AM Service)

Emma Grace Snow, Micah Jose Snow, and Joshua Miguel Snow

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

*(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 2:16-19**

<sup>2:16</sup> Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. <sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup> Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, <sup>19</sup> and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

**I. Jesus cannot be jammed into worldly fads**

**II. Jesus cannot be juxtaposed onto superstitious fads**

**III. Jesus is our justification relieving us from every jam**

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

## **GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

### **SONG OF RESPONSE**

#### **“Sanctified”**

*“Let there be no  
condemnation for  
all who are fully  
known in Christ.  
Unspeakable  
grace for all the  
nations by way of  
holy sacrifice. We  
worship with the  
sound of broken  
shackles falling  
to the ground.  
Sanctified, I have  
been set free.”*

Let there be no condemnation for all who are fully known in Christ.  
Unspeakable grace for all the nations by way of holy sacrifice. We worship with  
the sound of broken shackles falling to the ground. Sanctified, I have been  
set free. Grace divine has swept me off my feet. No greater love has ever been  
known than he who came to find the lost. No greater sacrifice has been shown  
than he who laid upon the cross. Let all creation sing for he has come and he’s  
changed everything. Sanctified, I have been set free. Grace divine has swept me  
off my feet. And I know that I will never be the same. And I know, yes, I know I’m  
not the same.

Words and music by Barry Graul, Bart Millard, Jim Bryson, Mike Scheuchzer, Nathan Cochran, and Robby Shaffer.

## **HYMN OF RESPONSE • #227**

PLEASE STAND

### **“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”**

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring;  
On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring;  
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;  
Then why should men on earth be sad since our Redeemer made us glad;  
When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before your grace, then life and health come in its place;  
When sin departs before your grace, then life and health come in its place;  
Angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night;  
All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night:  
“Glory to God and peace to men, now and forevermore. Amen.”

## **BENEDICTION**

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

## **POSTLUDE**

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### **WEEKLY BIBLE READING (December 23 - December 29)**

Revelation 1 • Revelation 2-3 • Revelation 4-5 • Revelation 18-19 • Revelation 20-22

# Announcements

**OUR MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK** are Scott and Dana Jennings who serve with Betel of Britain, a division of Worldwide Evangelism for Christ. They work with the homeless, addicts, and ex-offenders through counseling, prayer and Bible studies, and assist with street evangelism and prison ministries.

- **CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED:** The church offices will be closed on Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25 in observance of Christmas.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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](mailto:info@avpc.org).
- **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.
- **MEMBERSHIP MORNING:** Are you thinking about church membership at Altadena? Come to our next Membership Event, Saturday, January 25. You will meet church staff and hear about ministry opportunities at AVPC. Attendance at this or another weekend offered throughout the year is required for church membership.
- **LESSONS & 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.
- **OUR CONDOLENCES:** We extend our sincere condolences to the Bodkin family upon the recent loss of Lisa Bodkin. Please remember them in your prayers as they grieve.

# Calendar

## **SUNDAY (DECEMBER 22)**

8:30 AM      Worship Service  
                  Kyle Parker | Colossians 2:16-20  
 9:45 AM      Christmas Carol Sing in the  
                  Fellowship Hall  
 11:00 AM     Worship Service

## **TUESDAY (DECEMBER 24)**

**\*OFFICES CLOSED\***

## **WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 25)**

**\*OFFICES CLOSED\***

## **THURSDAY (DECEMBER 26)**

9:00 AM      Men's Coffee (Harris Home)

## **SUNDAY (DECEMBER 29)**

8:30 AM      Worship Service  
                  Kyle Parker | Colossians 2:20-23  
 10:00 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)

January 25 – Membership Morning

February 5-9 – AVPC Missions Conference

	<b>Contributions for the Week</b>	<b>Year-To-Date Contributions</b>	<b>Year-To-Date Requirements</b>	<b>Over(Under) Budget</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	\$68,376	\$1,708,900	\$1,517,842	\$191,058
<b>Faith Promise</b>	\$12,120	\$276,268	\$293,730	(\$17,461)

## 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 Allie 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 Assistant*

## 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*