



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.

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 24, 2023 | 10:00 AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

"Heavenly Hosts"

My world's standing still on this moonlit hill, alone. The stars fill my eyes, a strange and beautiful sight. Then voices singing in the sky, calling through the silent night, bring me to my knees. Heavenly hosts cry, "Glory, glory" for the Lord is with us. Let all the earth shout, "Worthy, worthy!" Love has come to save us. Holy, holy, holy! How could this little child so humble meek and mild come and save me and mend my heart and soul? The angels seem to know; hear them singing on and on. Holy, holy, holy! Love has come to save us. Hallelujah!

Words and music by Benjamin Backus, Joel Smallbone, Luke Smallbone, Matt Hales, Tedd Tjornhom, and Tony Wood.

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

Tim & Becky Cambron

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

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.

God of God, Light of Light;
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb:
Very God, begotten, not created.
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.

"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.

“Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery”

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.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

PLEASE BE SEATED

**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.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

*We receive
assurance that,
through Christ
Jesus, God, our
Heavenly Father,
will rejoice over us
with singing.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your 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!

Worship Sourcebook D.2.4.4 Based on Zephaniah 3:14-18, NRSV.

PLEASE STAND

HYMN OF RESPONSE • #213

“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

PASTORAL PRAYER

*This morning, there is no Worship Center for children ages 4 through Grade 1.
Parents are encouraged to keep their children with them during the sermon.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*At this time, children are invited to come forward
to the front of the sanctuary for the Children's Sermon.*

SCRIPTURE READING • Revelation 22:20-21

^{22:20} He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

SERMON • “Waiting for Advent” Rev. Blake Harris

Do you know the feeling of waiting for someone you love to arrive at a gathering? There is much anticipation and imagining what the reunion will be like before the moment arrives, especially if it's been a rather long time since your last meeting. This kind of expectant waiting is the very heart of Advent.

I. The Advent Promise

II. The Advent Prayer

III. The Advent Benediction

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

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Light Has Come”

What a wonder, God is moving all around us, lift your eyes. In the darkness of this weary world, hope is starting to rise. God is with us, behold his Son; dawn of glory, light has come. From the midnight of our waiting, Heaven’s highest enters in. Oh, the splendor of the Promised One, born in Bethlehem. Hallelujah, gloria! He is Alpha and Omega, King of kings and Prince of Peace. Tender Shepherd, Holy Lamb of God, Love, come to redeem.

Words and Music by Dwan Hill and Sarah Kroger.

HYMN OF RESPONSE • #196

PLEASE STAND

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
“Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth.”

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, how thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE

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WEEKLY BIBLE READING (December 25 - December 31)

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

Announcements

OUR MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK is Mason MacCaughelty, who works with Campus Outreach SERVE in their Advancement Team. There he writes to organizations and individual donors to help raise funds for all of Campus Outreach to enable the expansion of the movement and to spread the Gospel to even more students. He also writes copy for Campus Outreach SERVE's website, blog, and newsletters to keep donors informed about how their partnership is helping more people come to Christ.

- **CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED:** The church offices will be closed on Monday, December 25, Friday, December 29, and Monday, January 1 in observance of Christmas and New Year's.
- **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES:** Join us this evening 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:** For this Sunday and December 31, we will have only one worship service at 10:00 AM. There will be no Sunday School. Today 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.
- **NEW TOPICS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Our next semester of Sunday School will begin Sunday, January 7. You can pick up an informational sheet from the Parlor or Welcome Center. You can also find the informational sheet on our website under the Worship & Media - Resources tab.
- **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.
- **BIBLE STUDY/COMMUNITY GROUPS:** Be on the lookout for more information on upcoming Bible Studies and Community groups next year. If you have any questions about upcoming Bible studies or community groups, please call the church office at 205-967-0680.

Calendar

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

SUNDAY (DECEMBER 31)*

10:00 AM Worship Service
 Clint | Matthew 5:9
 11:30 AM Fellowship Lunch

**Celebration of The Lord's Supper*

SAVE THE DATE - MORE INFORMATION COMING

DECEMBER

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	\$48,412	\$1,328,891	\$1,375,525	(\$46,633)
Faith Promise	\$9,240	\$278,352	\$300,877	(\$22,525)

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