



# 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 3, 2023 | 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

## *First Sunday of Advent*

### PRELUDE

#### **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict’ry o’er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav’nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*On this First Sunday of Advent, we light the candle to remind us to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus Christ. May God Himself, through His prophets, lead us to Jesus, the only Redeemer of His people. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.*

### THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE • Isaiah 40:1-5

Josh & Emily Edmonds Family (8:30 AM Service)

Brannan & Whitney Jones (11:00 AM Service)

## **CALL TO WORSHIP • From Psalm 89:1; Isaiah 61:10**

(Leader) The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

**(All) Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest.

**You have filled our hearts with greater joy than when grain and new wine abound.**

You have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

**We will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O LORD, make us dwell in safety.**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, with justice and righteousness from that time on and forevermore.**

The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

**O come, let us adore him, Christ our Lord.**

## **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.*

## SONGS OF PRAISE

PLEASE STAND

### **“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.

## **“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”**

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,  
To save us all from Satan’s pow’r when we were gone astray;  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav’nly Father, a blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

“Fear not, then,” said the angel, “let nothing you affright;  
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in him from Satan’s pow’r and might.”  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flocks a feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind;  
And went to Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to find.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

PLEASE BE SEATED

## **CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

(Leader) Arise, shine: for your light has come.

**(All) O God, we live as if the light  
had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.**

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**We confess that we can often ignore the Christ  
you sent to be among us, to be in us.**

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.

**We often keep the coming of your Son  
confined to the Christmas season  
and do not yearn for his presence  
each moment in our waiting hearts.**

And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.  
**Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time.  
Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming.  
Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.**

Based on Isaiah 60:1-3; Worship Sourcebook D.2.2.4.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

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

*(Congregation singing.)*

### **“All Things New”**

Come, Lord, and tarry not. Bring the long looked for day.  
O why these years of waiting here, these ages of delay?  
Come, for thy saints still wait; daily ascends their sigh.  
The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” Does thou not hear the cry?

*(Refrain) O come and make all things new. Come and make all things new.  
O come and make all things new. Build up this ruined earth;  
Come and make all things new.*

Come, for creation groans, impatient of thy stay,  
Worn out with these long years of ill, these ages of delay.  
Come, for love waxes cold; its steps are faint and slow.  
Faith now is lost in unbelief, hope’s lamp burns dim and low. *(Refrain)*

Words by Horatius Bonar. Music by Clint Wells.

*We receive assurance that through Christ, we have been made righteous, and we are being refined and purified as gold and silver.*

## CHRIST'S REFINING WORK

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. The messenger of the Lord has come in Christ. In Christ, we present offerings to the Lord in righteousness!

**(All) Thanks be to God for his lavish grace!**

Worship Sourcebook D.2.4.5 Based on Malachi 3:1-4, NRSV.

PLEASE STAND

## HYMN OF RESPONSE • #196

**"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.

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

PLEASE BE SEATED

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

## **CHORAL RESPONSE** *(11:00 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.

Traditional English Carol. Arrangement by Howard Helvey..

*(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 15:14-21**

<sup>15:14</sup> I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. <sup>15</sup> But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God <sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. <sup>17</sup> In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. <sup>18</sup> For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, <sup>19</sup> by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; <sup>20</sup> and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, <sup>21</sup> but as it is written,

“Those who have never been told of him will see,  
and those who have never heard will understand.”

## **SERMON • “Gospel Transformation” Rev. Brad Allison**

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The book we refer to as Romans is a letter and not a treatise. A key difference is that letters are more personal, and we see that difference clearly in today’s passage. If Romans had been a treatise, it would likely have ended at 15:13. But since it’s a letter, it includes personal information about Paul and his relationship with the Christians at Rome. This personal side gives us a glimpse into the transforming power of the gospel. It is appropriate that a letter all about the gospel should include material about the power of the gospel to transform a life. This personal side of the gospel is helpful in giving us a fuller understanding of it and its transforming power. We see here two areas of Paul’s life that were transformed

### **I. The Gospel Transforms Relationships – v. 14-15**

### **II. The Gospel Transforms Work – v. 16-21**

#### **a) Work as Worship**

#### **b) Healthy Pride in Work**

#### **c) Successful Work**

#### **d) Narrowing the Focus**

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

## **GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

### **SONG OF RESPONSE**

#### **“Take My Life / Be Thou My Vision”**

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee. And be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King. Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne. Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all!

“Take My Life and Let It Be” words by Frances Ridley Havergal and music by Henri Abraham Cesar Malan.  
“Be Thou My Vision” based on an 8th century Irish poem. Music based on a traditional Irish melody.  
Arrangement by Steve Whitner.

*“Take my will, and  
make it thine; it  
shall be no longer  
mine. Take my  
heart, it is thine  
own, it shall be  
thy royal throne.”*

PLEASE STAND

### **HYMN OF RESPONSE • #203**

#### **“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."

## **BENEDICTION**

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

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### **WEEKLY BIBLE READING (December 4 - December 10)**

Hebrews 7 • Hebrews 8-9 • Hebrews 10 • Hebrews 11 • Hebrews 12

# Announcements

**OUR MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK** are John & Lynn Lehn. They are missionaries to Croatia serving with Greater Europe Mission in a church planting and discipleship ministry.

- **CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK:** Join us on tonight at 5:00 PM for our 5th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting in Altadena Park. There will be cookies and hot chocolate, a craft for the kids, and a gospel presentation. Invite your friends!
- **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** The Session has called a Congregational Meeting today during the Sunday School hour. The purpose of this meeting will be to elect church officers and to amend our by-laws. The Elder nominees are Paul Barber and John Wimberly, and the Deacon nominees are Zac Campbell, Steve Driggers, Tom McCallum, Darren Popwell, and Drew Russell.
- **DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Following the AVPC tradition, we will have joint Sunday school in the Fellowship Hall through December. We will have a congregational and information meeting today, a Youth-led Christmas hymn sing on December 10, 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, will be next Sunday, December 10. 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. Please note that doors will open for seating in the Sanctuary at 5:15 PM. You will not be able to save seats before this time. (Note: we will provide seating for kitchen workers.) Childcare will be provided through age three during the service.
- **YOUTH-LED CHRISTMAS HYMN SING:** Join us Sunday, December 10 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!
- **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 3)

8:30 AM     Worship Service  
 9:45 AM     SS - Congregational Meeting  
 11:00 AM    Worship Service  
                Brad | Romans 15:14-21  
 3:45 PM     Orchestra Rehearsal  
 5:00 PM     Christmas in the Park  
                Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
                Community Groups  
                Men's Bible Study - Parker Home

## MONDAY (DECEMBER 4)

3:00 PM     WTW - Allison Home

## WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 6)

8:30 AM     Covenant Mom's Prayer  
 9:00 AM     WTW - Church Parlor  
 5:30 PM     Pastoral Search Committee Meeting  
 6:00 PM     Community Groups  
 6:15 PM     Praise Team Rehearsal

## THURSDAY (DECEMBER 7)

9:00 AM     Men's Coffee

## SATURDAY (DECEMBER 9)

8:00 AM     Lessons & Carols Rehearsal

## SUNDAY (DECEMBER 10)

8:30 AM     Worship Service  
 9:45 AM     Joint Sunday School  
 11:00 AM    Worship Service  
                Brad | Romans 15:22-33  
 6:00 PM     Lessons & Carols  
 7:20 PM     Lessons & Carols Reception

### SAVE THE DATE - MORE INFORMATION COMING

#### DECEMBER

3 - Christmas in Altadena Park  
 10 - Lessons & Carols  
 17 - AVPC Children's Christmas Pageant  
 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Services  
       (4:30 PM & 6:00 PM)

#### 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 |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>General Fund</b>  | \$10,851                   | \$1,196,793                | \$1,221,108               | (\$24,315)         |
| <b>Faith Promise</b> | \$2,598                    | \$253,792                  | \$253,144                 | \$648              |

## 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*