



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 the morning service. Please ask an usher or greeter for directions to where the childcare area is located.
- A Nursing Mother's room, with an audio feed of the service, is located just outside the Sanctuary, next to the 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 31, 2023 | 10:00 AM

PRELUDE

“This Wild Earth”

As we rise from our knees where soil and sky meet—peace. All those who receive every branch of this tree—peace. Lord, come as the lion or come as the dove; just let there be life, life from above. Every soul upon the restless sea—hold on. Every heart that yearns for what will be—hold on. Every creature groaning from the curse—peace. Every corner of this wild earth—peace. Lord, come as the fire or come as the rain. Lord let there be life, life here again.

Words and Music by Eric J. Marshall.

Our prelude serves as a “gathering song,” signalling to the congregation when the worship service is about to begin. We encourage you to use this time to prepare your hearts for worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 29:1-2, 10-11; 96:7-9

(Leader) Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

(Congregation) The LORD sits enthroned as king forever. May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace.

(Leader) Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!

(All) Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

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.*

INVOCATION

THE WELCOME OF GOD

SONGS OF PRAISE

PLEASE STAND

“Joy to the World”

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow; Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

“What a Beautiful Name”

You were the Word at the beginning, one with God the Lord Most High.
Your hidden glory in creation now revealed in you, our Christ.

*(Chorus 1) What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.*

What a beautiful Name it is, nothing compares to this.

What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

You didn't want heaven without us, so Jesus, you brought heaven down.
My sin was great, your love was greater; what could separate us now?

*(Chorus 2) What a wonderful Name it is, what a wonderful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.*

What a wonderful Name it is, nothing compares to this.

What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

(Bridge) Death could not hold you, the veil tore before you.

You silence the boast of sin and grave.

The heavens are roaring the praise of your glory

For you are raised to life again.

You have no rival, you have no equal.

Now and forever God, you reign.

Yours is the kingdom, yours is the glory,

Yours is the Name above all names.

*(Chorus 3) What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.*

What a powerful Name it is, nothing can stand against.

What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus. (Repeat Chorus 3)

What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

Words and Music by Ben Fielding and Brooke Ligertwood.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Blessed Lord Jesus,
you told us in your Word:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit”
but we have been rich in pride.

“Blessed are those who mourn”
but we have not known much sorrow for our sin.

“Blessed are the meek”
but we are a proud and stiff-necked people.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness”
but we are filled to the full with other things.

“Blessed are the merciful”
but we are harsh and impatient.

“Blessed are the pure in heart”
but we have impure hearts.

“Blessed are the peacemakers”
but we have not sought peace and reconciliation.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake”
but our lives do not challenge the world.

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account”
but we have hardly made it known that we are yours.

**Lord forgive us, cleanse us, and give us hearts
that desire to be more and more like Jesus.**

It is in his name that we ask these things. Amen.

Based on Matthew 5:3-11.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON • Ezekiel 36:25-26; 2 Corinthians 5:17

This is what the Sovereign Lord says to his people, "I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

*We receive
assurance that
through Christ
Jesus, we are a new
creation and God's
Holy Spirit dwells
within us.*

HYMN OF RESPONSE • #529

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav’n, to earth come down:
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
Enter ev’ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
Into ev’ry troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its Beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be:
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heav’n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING • Matthew 5:9

^{5:9} "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (NIV)

I. What It Takes to Be a Peacemaker

II. What to Expect as a Peacemaker

III. The Results of Making Peace

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

("Self-serve communion packets" are available at all main sanctuary entrances. Gluten-free "bread" is available in the Welcome Center. As the elements are passed, feel free to state the following words to the person next to you in the pew: Bread—"This is Christ's body, given for you." Juice—"This is Christ's blood, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.")

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Kingdom of God"

Oh, that I could see your face; how I'm longing for the day. Brighter sun of holy grace, make my heart a holy place. Blessed are the poor who have nothing to own. Blessed are the mourners who are crying alone. Blessed are the guilty who have nowhere to go for their hearts have a road to the kingdom of God, and their souls are the songs of the kingdom of God, and they will find a refuge, for theirs is the kingdom of God. Beauty shining from your face; always longed to see this place. Is there somewhere I can stay even just a couple days? Blessed are the poor who have nothing to own. Blessed are the mourners who are crying alone. Blessed are the guilty who have nowhere to go for their hearts have a road to the kingdom of God, and their souls are the songs of the kingdom of God, and they will find a refuge, for theirs is the kingdom of God. The Lord is our shepherd, we shall not want. In valley or pasture we shall not want. Our cup runneth over and over for now and forever. Oh, that I could see your face; how I'm longing for the day.

Words and Music by Jon Guerra.

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.”

*“Peace on earth,
and mercy mild,
God and sinners
reconciled.”*

BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE

Words and Music used by permission. All rights reserved. CCLI #123371.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING (January 1 - January 7)

Genesis 1-2 • Genesis 3-4 • Genesis 6-7 • Genesis 8-9 • Job 1-2

Announcements

OUR MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK is Anelise Marshall, serving with Serge in East London. Anelise works in a Bangladeshi Muslim area, called Tower Hamlets, that has been virtually unreached by the gospel. She is involved with outreach, evangelism, and church-planting.

- **CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED:** The church offices will be closed on Monday, January 1 for New Year's.
- **FELLOWSHIP LUNCH:** Join us at 11:30 today for a soup and bread lunch in the Fellowship Hall.
- **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.
- **WOMEN'S SPRING BIBLE STUDY:** Please join your AVPC sisters this spring as we study through the book of Galatians together. Monday studies will begin on January 8 at 3:00 PM at the home of Nancy Klose (775 Highland Manor Ct.). Wednesday morning studies will begin on January 17 at 9:00 AM in the Church Parlor, and Wednesday evening studies will begin on January 17 at 6:00 PM at the home of Lea Anne Parker (4725 Old Loony Mill Rd.). Friday studies will begin on January 19 at 1:00 PM at the home of Judy Bates (5439 Meadow Garden Ln.). Study books are available in the Parlor for a cost of \$10.00. If you would like more information, contact Amy MacCaughelty at 205-706-6016.
- **MEN'S SPRING BIBLE STUDY:** There are many Bible study and fellowship opportunities for the men of AVPC this spring. The Sunday night group meets on the first three Sundays of each month from 5:00-6:30 PM at the home of Barry Parker. The men's coffee group meets every Thursday from 9:00-10:00 AM in the Conference Room for coffee, devotionals, donuts, and life stories. The men's breakfast group will begin on Monday, January 8 from 6:30-7:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. This group will be studying the book of Hosea. If you would like more information, contact Blake Harris at blake@avpc.org.

Calendar

SUNDAY (DECEMBER 31)*

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

MONDAY (JANUARY 1)

*** CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED***

WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 3)

5:30 PM Pastoral Search Committee Meeting
 6:15 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAY (JANUARY 4)

9:00 AM Men's Coffee

SUNDAY (JANUARY 7)

8:30 AM Worship Service
 Brad | Romans 16:1-6
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Worship Service
 4:00 PM Communicant's Class
 5:00 PM Kid's Bridge Night
 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Celebration of The Lord's Supper*

SAVE THE DATE - MORE INFORMATION COMING

Spring 2024 Events

January 19 - Membership Night
 February 7-11 - Missions Conference
 March 1-2 - Women's Retreat
 March 31 - Easter Sunday
 May 5 - Youth Sunday

Spring 2024 Fellowship Dinners

January 14 & 21
 February 4 & 25
 April 7 & 21
 May 19

	Contributions for the Week	Year-To-Date Contributions	Year-To-Date Requirements	Over(Under) Budget
General Fund	\$26,138	\$1,355,030	\$1,426,997	(\$71,967)
Faith Promise	\$8,426	\$286,778	\$316,789	(\$30,011)

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