



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.

We want you to feel as comfortable as possible while attending worship with us, so 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 for directions to where the childcare area is located.
- Midway through the worship services, children ages 4 to 6 years old will be dismissed and escorted to their own church time in Room L-1 of the Education Building. Parents can pick up their children after Sunday School (no later than 10:55 AM please) or after the 11:00 AM service.
- 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.

Come, let us worship together!

In consideration of others, please silence all electronic devices.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 4, 2022 | 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Second Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

“Light of the World”

The world waits for a miracle, the heart longs for a little bit of hope. O come, O come, Emmanuel. A child prays for peace on earth and she's calling out from a sea of hurt. O come, O come, Emmanuel. And can you hear the angels singing - Glory to the light of the world! Glory, the light of the world is here! The drought breaks with the tears of a mother, a baby's cry is the sound of love. Come down, come down, Emmanuel. He is the song for the suffering. He is Messiah. The Prince of Peace has come. He has come, Emmanuel. For all who wait, for all who hunger, for all who've prayed, for all who wonder - behold your King! Behold, Messiah! Emmanuel, Emmanuel!

Words and Music by Lauren Daigle, Paul Duncan, and Paul Mabury.

SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT:
The Advent
wreath has long
been a custom
here at AVPC.
This morning we
light the candle
to remind us that
we must receive
Jesus as He is
offered to us in the
gospel. May God
Himself, using the
example of Mary
and Joseph, lead
us to receive Jesus,
the only Redeemer
of His people. O
Come, O Come,
Emmanuel.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE • Matthew 1:18-25

Ryan & Laura Edwards Family (8:30 AM Service)

Chris & Lori Frank (11:00 AM Service)

Through God's Word, his people are called to enter into his presence in corporate worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP • Adapted from Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:6-11

(Leader) When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, Christ Jesus, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

(All) Joy to the world; the Lord has come!

And Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

(All) Joy to the world; the Lord has come!

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

(All) Joy to the world; the Lord has come!

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(All) Joy to the world; the Lord has come!

INVOCATION

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

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 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.

“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)*

“Silent Night” (11:00 AM Service)

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
"Alleluia to our King";
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

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.

PLEASE BE SEATED

*As a corporate
body, we confess
our sins to God and
call out to him for
forgiveness.*

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

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps. In Christ, God's salvation is at hand, and righteousness has come.

(All) Thanks be to God!

Based on Psalm 85:9-13, NRSV Worship Sourcebook D.2.4.1.

PLEASE STAND

HYMN OF RESPONSE • #207

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice"

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before him bow; and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE BE SEATED

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE *(8:30 AM Service)*

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel. Of our Lord and Savior we the tidings tell. Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born. Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel. Angels called to shepherds, “Leave your flocks at rest. Journey forth to Bethlehem, find the Child so blest.” In Bethlehem they found him: Joseph and Mary mild, seated by the manger, watching the holy Child. From the eastern country came the kings afar, bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star. Glory to God, for Christ the King is born. Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel. Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price; there was never a stable so like paradise.

Traditional French Carol. Arrangement by Howard Helvey, 1995.

*At this time,
children ages 4-6
are dismissed for
their worship.*

SCRIPTURE READING • Romans 4:13-25

^{4:13} For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” ²³ But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

SERMON • “Hope Against Hope” Rev. Brad Allison

It's been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Paul has been making the case that our salvation is by faith and not by works. We have summarized that by saying that the main verb of Christianity is receive, not achieve. In today's passage, Paul gives us a picture of faith, this receiving from God, from the life of Abraham. We could summarize Abraham's faith with the words of verse 18: "In hope he believed against hope." In other words, Abraham had hope in a hopeless situation. Let's consider Abraham's faith by viewing it through this lens of hope.

I. Hope that Burns Low

II. Hope that Burns Bright

III. Hope that Burns Forever

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

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

SONG OF RESPONSE

“When Hope Came Down”

So this is how it was, a silent night like any other, when heaven sent the One, the One that we would call our Savior. And redemption began in a stable in Bethlehem. All of the angels lifted up their voices and filled the night with Hallelujahs. God is with us now. Everyone come and join the heav'nly chorus. Our Savior, King is here before us. Oh, to hear the sound, the song creation sang when Hope came down. So this was truly God wrapped up in a tattered blanket. Love was finally here, sleeping while the world awakened and redemption began with a baby in Bethlehem. So let us sing Redemption's song. Let us worship Christ the Holy One. We were lost but we were found when Hope came down.

Words and Music by Ben Glover and Kari Jobe.

*So let us sing
Redemption's
song. Let us
worship Christ
the Holy One.
We were lost but
we were found
when Hope came
down.*

HYMN OF RESPONSE • #201

PLEASE STAND

“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.

*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.*

BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE

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WEEKLY BIBLE READING (December 5 - December 11)

1 Timothy 1-3 • 1 Timothy 4-6 • 2 Timothy 1-2 • 2 Timothy 3-4 • 1 Peter 1-2

Announcements

OUR MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK is Jean Legters, who serves the people of Mexico in the Yucatan Peninsula. There she teaches music at San Pablo Seminary and helps run a summer youth camp.

- **COVID PROTOCOL:** Beginning today, the Sanctuary and the Parlor are mask-optional in both the early and late services.
- **CHRISTMAS AT THE PARK:** Join us tonight at 5:00 PM, as we light the Christmas tree, drink hot chocolate and enjoy some family fun.
- **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** Instead of one Congregational Meeting, the Session is now calling two. The first will be today at 10:15 AM in Fellowship Hall (immediately following the 9:45 AM Fellowship Brunch), for the purpose of changing the call of Blake Harris from Assistant Pastor to Associate Pastor and also to hear a report from the Session on the pastoral transition process. The second Congregational Meeting will be on December 18 at 9:45 AM in Fellowship Hall for the purpose of electing church officers. The Elder nominees are: Brian Beckett, Brent McClenny, Jack Morris, Karl Poythress, and Thomas Prettyman. The Deacon nominees are: Woody Armstrong, Al Foster, Trey Holmes, Matt Jackson, Jon Peters, Josh Putman, Bill Sommer, and Ed Wofford.
- **PASTORAL TRANSITION FAQ DOCUMENT:** We encourage you to check out the Pastoral Transition FAQ document which can be found in the parlor and in the Welcome Center. There will also be informational meetings regarding the pastoral transition during the Sunday School hour on December 4 and 11. Plan to attend those meetings. An electronic version of this document can be found on the church website: www.avpc.org/about/pastoral-transition.
- **LESSONS & CAROLS:** Our annual Lessons and Carols Service, will be on Sunday, December 11 at 6:00 PM. 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. 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 for the service.
- **BECOME A FRIENDSHIP PARTNER:** Friendship partners is a program where you invest a small amount of time in an international student from UAB, in hopes of encouraging them with a family life, while they are so far away from home. AVPC participates in this program, working with the International Outreach ministry of Briarwood Presbyterian Church and UAB. Questions? Please contact Tom Hinke thhinke@gmail.com for more detailed information.
- **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** God's House Kindergarten is looking for a part-time music teacher for our preschoolers from 8:30 – 12:30 each day from 3 to 5 days a week beginning in February. Please contact Susan at susan@avpc.org or call GHK at 967-7611 if you are interested.

Calendar

SUNDAY (DECEMBER 4)

8:30 AM Worship Service
 9:45 AM Fellowship Brunch
 10:15 AM Congregational Meeting
 11:00 AM Worship Service
 Brad | Romans 4:13-25
 12:00 PM Mission Lunch
 12:30 PM Mercy Lead Team Meeting
 3:45 PM Orchestra/Ensemble Rehearsal
 5:00 PM Christmas at Altadena Park

MONDAY (DECEMBER 5)

6:30 AM Men's Breakfast

WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 7)

6:00 PM Community Groups
 6:15 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
 6:30 PM Youth Small Groups

THURSDAY (DECEMBER 8)

9:00 AM Men's Coffee

SATURDAY (DECEMBER 10)

8:00 AM Lessons & Carols Rehearsal

SUNDAY (DECEMBER 11)

8:30 AM Worship Service
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Worship Service
 Blake | Romans 5:1-11
 5:15 PM Doors open for Lessons & Carols
 6:00 PM Lessons & Carols Service

- DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

Dec. 4: Congregational Meeting to call Blake Harris as Associate Pastor; Pastoral Transition Presentation.

Dec. 11: Q&A time regarding the Pastoral Transition Process; ways to serve at AVPC.

Dec. 18: Congregational Meeting to elect officers; Children's Christmas Pageant.

Dec. 25 & Jan. 1: One worship service only at 11 AM; no Sunday School; no childcare provided. (The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on January 1.)

- ON THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM:** On the Road to Bethlehem is a weekly Advent family devotional created by AVPC members. Copies are available in the Parlor and Welcome Center.

	11/27/22 Receipts	Year-To-Date Receipts	Year-To-Date Requirements	Over(Under) Budget
General Fund	\$17,603	\$1,189,835	\$1,173,294	\$16,541
Faith Promise	\$2,480	\$263,979	\$276,603	(\$12,624)

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
Assistant Pastor–Adult Ministries

CHURCH LEADERS

ELDERS

David Allen Paul Barber Steve Barley Grahame Bobo Clint Cvacho Jim Darden
Tim English Nicholas Ireland Barry Parker Karl Poythress Danny Wachs

DEACONS

Hunter Boggs David Coley Al Foster Trey Holmes Matt Jackson Russell Lloyd
Josh Moore Darren Popwell Josh Putman Bill Sommer Rob Wise

YOUNG ADULTS & MEN'S MINISTRIES

Blake Harris
Young Adult & Men's Ministry Leader

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Catie Lumpkin
Children's Director
Diana Lloyd
Nursery Director

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Heather Sommer
Women's Ministry Director

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Clint Cvacho
Youth Director
Callen Moyer
Girl's Discipleship Director
Michael Whitner
Youth Worship Leader

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACILITY

Christine Rowlette
Church Administrator
Connor Bingham
Administrative Assistant
Jimmie Campbell
Bookkeeper
Dave Mayhew
Facilities Manager
Christin Murphy
Kitchen Coordinator

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Heather Sommer
Worship Ministry Assistant
Young jin Jeon
Organist
Carol Apol & Ricky Klose
Sound Ministry Directors