

**COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF CHULA VISTA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



WORSHIP SERVICE

9:30 A.M.

December 24, 2023

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
and Christmas Eve Day**

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's
journey, you are welcome here!*

Welcome! Mabuhay! Bienvenidos!

We welcome you in the name of the still speaking God!
We invite all *guests* to please **PRINT** their name and contact info
on the ***“Information Card”*** in the pew rack and place the card
in the offering plate. Anyone with a prayer request,
please put it on the ***“Information Card”***
and place it in the offering plate.
If you need assistance, please ask our Greeters.

Church Staff and Contact List

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P.O. Box 5574 Chula Vista, CA 91912

Rev. Victoria Freiheit - Senior Minister

Lionel Jasmin - Minister of Music

Kim Appleget - Pre-school Director

Erika Dennis - Prayer Chain Coordinator

Sylvia Campbell - Event Coordinator

Corinne McCall - Financial Secretary

Pelito Capistrano - Custodian

Louise Lopez - Office Secretary

Audio Visual Team- Kevin Hewitt, Ko Tangen, Jerry May

Nathan Purificacion - Moderator

Chris Dunn - Coffee Hour

Rueben Barrera - Head Usher

Greeters: Judy May & Marilyn Milligan

**Community Congregational Church of Chula Vista
United Church of Christ
December 24, 2023, Fourth Sunday of Advent
and Christmas Eve Day Festival of Lessons and Carols**

Prelude: Lionel Jasmin & Alejandro Tapia

Welcome and Announcements: Rev. Victoria Freiheit

Liturgist: Rev. Sandra Nunnally

Call to Worship: (Responsively) Rev. Sandra Nunnally

One: Let us celebrate Christmas in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, who came to us from the heart of God's own being, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness.

Many: **Like Jesus, we would seek at this season more to give than to receive, and more to love than to be loved.**

One: We celebrate God's entering in our lives in human form, to bring light to all the world.

All: **May every knee bow before the newborn Savior; with the angels, may every tongue sing: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

* Hymn: **O Come All Ye Faithful** Red p. 193 all verses (English)

Lighting of the Advent candles **The Brainard Family**
Four candles, burning bright, chasing away the darkness with light. Sending a glimmer of hope to those in despair, letting them know we remember and care. Giving a ray of possibility to those who've lost their way, with these candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, we signal trust in God's new day. Amen.

* Hymn: **In the Bleak Midwinter** NCH p. 128 All verses

* Please stand if you are able

First Lesson:

Tracy says: **“The prophet announces the Birth of a King”** **Isaiah chapter 9**
For unto us a child is born, unto us a child is given. And the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this.

Tracy says: **“Hymn: Of the Father's Love Begotten”** Red p. 172 All verses

Lighting of the Christ Candle: **The Brainard Family**
As we light the Christ candle, celebrating the end of Advent and the arrival of Christ and Christmas, let us remember how our savior came once as a lowly baby, that the world through him might be saved, and how he will return one day in glory.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Second Lesson:

Sandra says: **“A Ruler From Bethlehem is Foretold”** **Micah chapter 5**
But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from old, from ancient days. Therefore, he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God, and they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Sandra says: **“Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem”** Red p. 178 v. 1 and 4

Third Lesson

Nate says: **“The Announcements to Mary and Joseph”** **Luke chapter 1**
In the sixth month the Angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there shall be no end.” Mary said, “My soul doth magnify the LORD for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.”

Matthew chapter 1

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and Joseph, being a just man, decided to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, an angel of the LORD appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the LORD commanded him; he took his wife but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Nate says: **"Hymn: Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear"** NCH p. 105 all verses

Children's Story: Judy May at the Stained-Glass Window in the back.

Fourth Lesson:

Reuben says: **"Jesus is Born!"**

Luke 2

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph from Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David, called Bethlehem. He went with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Reuben says: **"Hymn: Away in a Manger"** Red p. 185 All verses

Fifth Lesson:

Jerry says: **"The Shepherds and the Angels"**

Luke 2

There were shepherds in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And the angel of the LORD came upon them and they were afraid. The angel said "Do not be afraid, for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior, who is Christ the LORD. This will be a sign for you: You shall find the baby wrapped in bands of cloth, lying in a manger." Then there was a multitude of angels, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will to all!"

The shepherds said, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has happened, which the LORD has made known unto us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in a manger. The shepherds returned, glorifying God for all they had seen and heard.

Jerry says: **"Hymn: The First Noel"**

Red p. 179 v. 1 & 2

Sixth Lesson:

Marilyn says: **“The Wise Men Follow the Star”**

Matthew 2

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him. When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled and gathered the chief priests and scribes to demand of them where Christ should be born. They responded, “In Bethlehem, of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet.” Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem and told them “Search diligently for the child, and bring me word of him, that I may come and worship also.” They followed the star until it came and stood over the place where the young child lay. There they presented him with gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, instead they departed to their own country by another way.

Marilyn says: **“Hymn: We Three Kings of Orient Are”** Red p.206 v. 1 & 5

Seventh Lesson:

Rev. Victoria says: **“John Unfolds the Great Mystery of the Incarnation.”** **John 1**

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. In him was life, and the life was the light of the people. A man sent from God, called John, came to witness and testify about the Light, the true light which enlightens everyone. To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become the children of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Rev. Victoria says: **“Hymn: Joy to the World!”** Red p. 171 v. 1 & 4

Call to Offering: Unison

Rev. Sandra Nunnally

Through Christ, let us continually praise God and share what we have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Amen.

Offertory:

Tanya & Alejandro Tapia

***Doxology:** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen.*

*** Prayer of Dedication: (Unison)**

Rev. Sandra Nunnally

We present with joy our offerings of commitment and support for the work of Christ's church. Amen.

***Closing Hymn: Who Would Think That What Was Needed** NCH p153 all verses

Acknowledgements:

Rev. Victoria

Thank you for your participation in the Christmas Story:

Rev. Sandra Nunnally, Norma Brainard, Tracy Brainard, Nate Purificacion, Judy May, Reuben Barrera, Jerry May and Marilyn Bintz.

***Benediction:**

Rev. Victoria

Form a circle **Let There Be Peace on Earth**

Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Maker, All one Family.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment, and live each moment
With peace eternally,
Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.

Postlude:

Lionel Jasmin & Alejandro Tapia

Weekly Inspiration: This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us.

John 3:16

You are invited to a New Year's Eve Service this year, on Sunday, December 31st, at 11PM, at the Community Congregational Church, in the front of the Sanctuary. We will share our 2023 experiences and make our New Year's resolutions, ending with a prayer. Happy New Year!

TUESDAY	December 26th
9:30 AM	Quilters meet in small dining room
7:00 PM	AA – meeting in Lounge
THURSDAY	December 28th
7:00 PM	Choir Practice
FRIDAY	December 29th
	No Bible Study until January 12
SUNDAY	December 31st - New Years Eve Day
9:30 AM	Worship Service
10:30 AM	Fellowship and coffee
11:00 PM	New Year's Eve in the Sanctuary

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