

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



**WORSHIP SERVICE
9:30AM**

**Community Congregational Church of Chula Vista
United Church of Christ
December 28, 2025**

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

276 F St. Chula Vista, Ca 91910

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
(619) 422-9263

www.chulavistachurch.com

Email: churchsecretary@chulavistachurch.com

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

Donna Purificacion - Director of Christian Education

Rod Nickels- Associate Custodian

Jerry May- Moderator

Belen Hebreo- Vice Moderator

Chris Dunn- Coffee Hour

Reuben Barrera- Head Usher

Loren Sanchez -Nursery Attendant

Eygiel Balinski -Nursery Attendant

Greeters: Isabel Blanco & Maria Hartz

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Thought Before Worship: “Anger never persuades, hostility never heals, and contention never leads to lasting solutions.” *Russell M. Nelson*

Prelude: Mary Did You Know
By Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

Lionel Jasmin

Lighting of the Candles:

Purificacion Family

Welcome and Announcements:

Rev. Victoria Freiheit

Liturgist:

Erika Dennis

***Gathering Music:**

- 1. Lord I Lift Your Name on High**
- 2. O Come Let Us Adore Him**
- 3. Gloria in Excelsior Deo**
- 4. It's a Great Day**

Opening Prayer:

Rev. Victoria

Our Motto: “No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!”

Opening Hymn: Go Tell it on the Mountain Red p. 205

Call to Worship: (Responsively)

Erika Dennis

One: Let us come together giving honor to Almighty God!

All: Let us honor those who led us in the ways of the Lord in our youth!

One: Praise be to God for the families we shared in our childhood!

All: Praise be to the Lord that we are adopted into the family of God!

One: May the Lord bless the loved ones of our youth wherever they may be.

All: Blessed be the name of the Lord!

Hymn:

Spirit of the Living all God NCH p. 283 verses

Prayer of Invocation: Unison

Erika Dennis

We know not how God comes, but God comes—in an obscure stable, in splashing waters, in the breaking of the bread. Often God comes in the flesh, in people. Now and always, may the Christ in you keep you a sign of living love, and love living among us. Amen.

*** Please stand if you are able.**

Choir Anthem: Joy: A Medley of Carols (Traditional Carols)

Children's Sermon: Rev. Victoria

Order of Baptism for Knox Elijah Limbo

Pastor: Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

People: **There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.**

Pastor: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all. Jesus came to John to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. "I ought to be baptized by you," John said, "yet you have come to me!"

People: **Jesus said," Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires." So John agreed.**

Pastor: As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on him.

People: **Then a voice said from heaven, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased."**

Pastor: Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united to Jesus Christ. It is the outward and visible sign of an invisible event. It shows the death of self, and the rising to a life of obedience and praise. It also shows the pouring out of the Holy Spirit. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness, the renewal of the spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be God's people always.

People: **This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.**

Questions for the Parents and Godparents

Pastor: Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents and Godparents: We do.

Pastor: Will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents and Godparents: We will with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you teach this child that he may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Parents and Godparents: We will with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise to teach this child, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love

and justice and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Parents and Godparents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with him in the Christian faith and to help him be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Parents and Godparents: We do, with the help of God.

Question for the Congregation

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized as he lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support and care.

Prayer of Baptism

Pastor: Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray: Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over him. Create new life in the one baptized this day that he may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Act of Baptism and Prayer for the Baptized

Pastor: Let us pray for Knox Elijah Limbo who is baptized today. Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy by giving us the gift of Jesus. Bless Knox Elijah, that he may never be ashamed to confess a personal faith in you. Give to him strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life, through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

GODPARENTS:

- **Sasha and Eygiel Balisnki**
- **Catherine Talaoc**
- **Nicolas Rojas**
- **John Sabater**
- **Mariza and John Cao**
- **Kyle and Gracie Limbo**

Scripture: **Matthew 2:1-12** Erika Dennis

Sermon: **The In-Between Time** Rev. Victoria

Prayers: **Silent, Pastoral, Lord's Prayer** Rev. Victoria

Call to Offering: **Unison** Erika Dennis

Each one must do as they have made up their mind, not reluctantly, or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Amen.

Offertory: **My Favorite Thing** Sampaguita Bahena

***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.*

Prayer of Dedication: (Unison) Erika Dennis
We bring our tithes and offerings in thankful praise to God. Amen.

***Closing Hymn:** **Who Would Think** NCH p.153 all verses

***Benediction:** Rev. Freiheit

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 and Aiden Keys

Announcements

WE WELCOME YOU to the Community Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. To our visitors we extend a special greeting. We are delighted that you have joined us today. Please sign the information card and let us know if you need prayers.

A big thank you to all carolers, friends and family for their donations.

Thanks for your help!

SCHEDULE FOR TODAY December 28th

9:30 AM Worship Service

10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship

TUESDAY December 30th

5:00 PM American Youth - Bradley Hall

7:00 PM AA Top of the Hill – Lounge

WEDNESDAY December 31st

11:30 PM-12:30 AM New Year's Eve at the Tower

THURSDAY January 1st

Office Closed

FRIDAY January 2nd

10:00 AM Bible Study meets in Lounge

SUNDAY January 4th

9:30 AM Worship Service

10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship

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El tiempo intermedio

¿Han escuchado la historia de Navidad para niños sobre cómo estamos en medio de los 12 días de Navidad, el tiempo entre la Navidad y la Epifanía, del 26 de diciembre al 6 de enero? ¿Qué creen que Dios quiere que sepamos sobre este "tiempo intermedio"? El tiempo entre el pesebre con los pastores y la casa descrita en Mateo 2:10, donde los Reyes Magos de Oriente visitaron al niño Jesús y le ofrecieron regalos de oro, incienso y mirra.

Esos 12 días entre la Navidad y la Epifanía no están mencionados en la Biblia; es una tradición cristiana. El Adviento tampoco está mencionado en la Biblia; también es una tradición cristiana. Nos encantan nuestras tradiciones, ¿verdad? Como la Biblia no dice cuánto tiempo transcurrió entre el pesebre y la casa, podemos imaginar por un momento qué sucedió y cuándo. Es una pregunta.

Les he mencionado antes que, cuando llegue al Cielo, quiero ponerme en esa larga fila de personas que quieren hacer preguntas sobre algo que leyeron en la Biblia. Esta será una de mis preguntas. Durante los 12 días entre el pesebre y la casa, María, José y el bebé se mudaron. Imaginen lo contentos que estaban de salir del establo y dormir en una cama cómoda. Imaginen una casa pequeña, pero limpia.

¿Han pasado mucho tiempo en un establo? Una amiga de mi infancia tenía caballos y nos encantaba ir al establo a acariciarlos. El heno olía bien, pero había otros olores, no tan agradables. Queríamos pasar la noche en el establo, durmiendo en el heno, pero no nos dejaban.

Así que nos íbamos a su cómoda casa, antes de que su mamá pudiera gritar: "¡Niños, salgan de ese establo ahora mismo!".

Imaginen a María amamantando al bebé en aquella pequeña casa. Quizás José salía a buscarles comida. María y José no sabían que había unos Reyes Magos buscando al Rey de los judíos y siguiendo su estrella desde Oriente.

Tampoco sabían que, después de que los Reyes Magos regresaran a casa por otro camino, el rey Herodes mataría a todos los bebés (Mateo 2:1): "Cuando Herodes vio que los Reyes Magos lo habían engañado, se enfureció y mandó matar a todos los niños de Belén y de toda la región que tuvieran dos años o menos".

Observamos que el Evangelio de Lucas narra el nacimiento desde la perspectiva de los pastores, y el Evangelio de Mateo lo narra desde la perspectiva de los Reyes Magos. Al unir ambas historias, obtenemos el tiempo intermedio. Al igual que hoy, estamos entre la Navidad y la Epifanía.

Si pudieran aconsejar a María y a José qué hacer al salir del establo, ¿qué les dirían? Yo les diría: "Descansen, necesitan recuperar fuerzas después del parto, y el camino de regreso a Nazaret es largo, sobre todo ahora que llevan consigo a un bebé tan importante". También les diría: "Escuchen las indicaciones de Dios, escuchen la Palabra de Dios".

Piensen que nosotros también tenemos tiempos intermedios. Momentos de emoción y alegría intercalados con momentos de tranquilidad y sin acontecimientos importantes. Cuando eso suceda, descansen, recuperen fuerzas y estudien la Palabra de Dios. No solo nuestro cuerpo se cansa, también nuestra mente y nuestro espíritu. ¿Cómo descansan su mente y su espíritu? Mis dos actividades favoritas son caminar y orar. Si la caminata es en la naturaleza, como en las montañas, la oración surge de forma natural, sin pensarlo.

Tenemos la suerte de vivir en un lugar con un clima tan bueno que podemos caminar casi todos los días. ¿Quién iba a pensar que llovería en Navidad? ¿Sería Dios diciéndome que no me enorgullezca tanto de vivir aquí? Tenemos la suerte de vivir en un país con libertad de religión: nadie puede impedirnos orar ni leer la Palabra de Dios.

Al igual que María y José, espero que tengan un tiempo intermedio para descansar su cuerpo, su mente y su espíritu. Tengan a mano sus zapatos para caminar y su Biblia, y dediquen tiempo a la oración. Disfruta del tiempo intermedio. Amén.