



**First Presbyterian Church
December 3, 2023**

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor Larry Thorson

***PRAISE SONG**

"Make a Way"

Praise Team

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

John and Shalini Perumpral

***HYMN**

"The Advent of Our God"

#120

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Bruce Edmundson

Holy Lord, in this time of Advent, we confess we often are distracted by the season's busyness, by the stress of commitment, and even by putting our own traditions ahead of the true meaning of Christmas. We confess we also often prefer being sentimental to being sacrificial. Forgive us for all the times we have missed seeing You in our midst, for all the times we have doubted Your presence, and for all the times we have failed to hold the holidays as holy days. Pour peace into our lives and let us be bearers of Your peace to others. Remind us that this is a season of waiting and preparation for the greatest Gift of all. Please search our hearts as we sit before you now in silence.

SILENT TIME OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Bruce Edmundson

Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and be alive to all that is good. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

PRAISE SONG

"I Will Celebrate"

Praise Team

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Bruce Edmundson

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you!

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 91:1-16 Bruce Edmundson

HYMN "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" #133

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 12:13-15

MESSAGE "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Pastor Larry Thorson

APOSTLES' CREED Bruce Edmundson

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Servers: Tom Perloff and Lora Shirley

RESPONSE TO GOD'S GOODNESS Bach Prelude and Fugue No. 17
"Well-Tempered Clavier" Matthew Bhattacharya

PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR THE OFFERING (Unison) Bruce Edmundson

As we bring our offerings to you, we give back to you from the abundant blessings you have given us. May our gifts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord our God. Blessings and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, and power and strength, be unto you our God forever and ever. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SHARING OF PRAISES AND PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #141 (1,2,4)

***THE BENEDICTION**

*We invite all to stand either in body or in spirit.

Serving in Worship

Wendy Nelson, Greeter, Bruce Edmundson, Liturgist

Janelle Herrera, Music Director, Praise Team Co-Leader

Ian-Carl Floirendo, AV Director, Son Ringers Director, Praise Team Co-Leader

Tan Sang, Pianist

Team: Daniel Williams, Sophie Schoepp, Janelle Herrera, Ian-Carl Floirendo

Benji Bhattacharya, AV Assistant

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Church Office: 650.968.4473 / firstpresbyterian@fpcmv.org

Margie Haines, Administrative Assistant

Rev. Dr. Larry Thorson, Transitional Pastor / larry@fpcmv.org
172 years in Mountain View

Week at FPCMV

Sunday	9:00am	Bible Study on Isaiah/Chapel & Zoom
	10:00am	Worship
		Son Ringers rehearsal
	10:45am	Gathering/informal gathering with Pastor Larry
	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal/Chapel

*The Zoom links are in the weekly emails. Contact the office at 650.968.4473 or firstpresbyterian@fpcmv.org and Margie will place you on the list.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 10 at 11am (Immediately following the service.)

The purpose of the meeting is to elect members of the Church Nominating Committee and a Session Elder. The terms begin January 2024

Nominees:

- Elder Class of 2026: Jerry Kixmoeller
- Church Nominating Committee 2024 (one year term): John Perumpral, Jay Bhattacharya, Mark Shirley, Steven Nelson, and Sandy Perloff

Sunday, December 10 | Christmas Caroling 5-7pm

Hosted by the Deacons

Dress warm and let's give our neighbors some Christmas cheer. Meet at the chapel. We will walk to nearby neighborhood Sladky Avenue etc., and end up at Church Manse.

December 15 at 7:00 pm | Christmas Party at the Manse

1110 Cuesta Avenue, Mtn. View

Everyone is invited. We have the movie "White Christmas", games and special Christmas goodies to enjoy.

Christmas Event | Tea Time!

Friday, December 15 from 5pm-7pm (snack and desserts)

Saturday, December 16 from 5pm-7pm (snack and desserts)

Libby Boatwright is inviting you to her home at 2420 Our Lane, Mountain View (cross street Eunice) to enjoy viewing 135 nativities from all over the world. Please come and enjoy this remarkable collection. RSVP etboat2b@aol.com

The Advent of Our God

Verse 1

The advent of our God,
With eager hearts we greet!
And we must praise Him in this hour,
With hymns and anthems sweet.

Verse 2

All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free;
With Father, Spirit, ever One'
Through all eternity.
Amen.

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Verse 1

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 hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Verse 2

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!"

Verse 3

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!"

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Verse 1

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.

Verse 2

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep,
The angels keep their watch,
of wondering love.

O morning stars together,
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

Verse 4

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.

