



CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

13560 Hawthorne Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 fax 310-676-2309 phone: 310-676-1144

calvarypres@sbcglobal.net

www.calvarypres.com

Calvary Presbyterian Church is a welcoming people of faith and hope in Christ Jesus, inspired by God's word and led by the Holy Spirit. We serve God, each other, our community, and the world, through worship, study, teaching, fellowship and outreach; demonstrating God's love, justice, compassion and grace.

Now is a good time to turn off our cell phones and listen for God's call.

Please sign the friendship pad at the end of the pew and pass it down for others to sign.

December 20, 2009

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

PRELUDE

Pat Bofird

(If you have an announcement, please come to the front during the Prelude, so you'll be close to the microphone.)

SONGS OF PRAISE

WHO ARE WE AND WHY ARE WE HERE?

Elder-elect Charles Parker

One: Who are we who gather here this Sunday before Christmas?

**All: We are vulnerable human beings, not shepherds in the field,
but workers, students, retirees, and children.**

One: Why have we come?

**All: Some of us come in joy, others in pain, all of us with needs and questions.
We come to trust our laughter, our tears, and our lives
to the One who put himself at risk in a manger and on a cross.**

One: We are people to whom God has given a Son.

All: We call him Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!

CHRISTMAS INTROIT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder-elect Charles Parker

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the stillness before the dawn, the morning stars witness a birth.

All: The silence is broken by a song heard by shepherds.

One: The joyful sound floats over wide oceans, soars to the corners of the universe,
and rests in the depth of our hearts. The Savior is born!

All: Glory to God!

One: The Savior is Born.

All: Glory to God!

OUR CHRISTMAS PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

**All: Loving God, in Jesus you have given us your Word. He has come to us in flesh and blood; in
strength and tenderness; and in birth, death, and resurrection.
Give us the strength and grace to follow him from Bethlehem to Nazareth to Calvary and to
you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*HYMN #31 "HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"

PRAYER OR CONFESSION

One: Holy and loving God, forgive us for not looking for you among those who are abused or forgotten,
homeless or hungry.

All: Forgive us for not welcoming those around us who need your love and care.

One: We celebrate the birth of one born homeless, whose family fled for their lives, pursued by a
ruthless dictator.

**All: Help us to care for those who are vulnerable and in need.
Help us to share your love with all people. Amen.**

* Please stand if you are able

RESPONSE HYMN #40 (vs. 3)

“Joy to the World”

***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.***

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: In mercy, God offers us salvation and forgiveness.
In love, God redeems us, lifts us up, and carries us.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

“ADVENT SONG” #2090 IN SING THE FAITH, (VERSE 4)

***Light the Advent candle, four: think of joy forevermore
Christ child in a stable born, gift of love that Christmas morn.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light***

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Zermeno Family

Prayer: Lord, remind us that, like Mary, each one of us is a bearer of your Good News. We are called to proclaim hope, peace, joy, and love in your name. Open our hearts today to receive your gift of love. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Reader 1: Today we light four candles- the first Candle is called HOPE. It is a reminder that God's promises are true.

Reader 2: The second Candle is called PEACE, God's gentle loving peace for our lives.

Reader 3: The third Candle is called JOY, because of God's absolute presence in our lives.

Reader 4: The fourth Candle is called LOVE, because of God's great love for us.

All Readers: Come, all is ready. Let the light of these candles, called HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE, bring brightness to our spirits.

[The four Advent Candles are lit.]

*HYMN #53

“What Child Is This?”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: We thank you God, that in your Son, Love was born in this world.
Help us to celebrate the radiance of Christ, who was born to be the light of the world.
Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

One: Lord - we pray today for those who have not understood that they are worthy in your sight.
We pray for those who feel empty.

All: May they discover the Babe of Christmas who fills their souls with peace and hope.

One: We pray for those who feel alone.

All: May they discover that you are with them - that Jesus is still Emmanuel.

May they learn that Christ has come to live in every heart and transform every life.

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

One: We pray for those around the world who live in crisis and for friends and for friends and members of our families who have special needs, especially - - -

(Please offer your prayers for those in need.)

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

One: We praise you for the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love that you continue to give us; and we thank you, as we offer the prayer you have taught us.

All: Our Father - - -

INTRODUCTION TO THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Rev. Ken and Carol Tracy

OUR GIFTS OF THANKSGIVING

Offertory

String Quartet

***RESPONSE HYMN #40 (vs. 4)**

“Joy to the World”

*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*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

A CHRISTMAS CANTATA

THE LIVING LIGHT BY RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM

THE LIVING LIGHT

CHANCEL CHOIR

Innkeeper

Innkeeper's Wife

SEND US THE LIGHT

CHANCEL CHOIR

Innkeeper's Daughter

Mary

I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES

SOLO AND CHANCEL CHOIR

Daphne Helms, Soprano

Adult Shepherd

Young Shepherd

GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING

CHANCEL CHOIR

Roman Soldier

Joseph

CHRIST THE KING

SOLO AND CHANCEL CHOIR

Steve Clausen, Tenor

CITIZEN OF BETHLEHEM

KING/WISE MAN

ONE TRUE KING

CHANCEL CHOIR

The Living Light (Reprise)

Chancel Choir and Congregation

***BENEDICTION**

***HALLELUJAH CHORUS**

CHANCEL CHOIR