



HIS PROMISE IS  
**PEACE**

December 15, 2024

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



**Bay Area**  
PRESBYTERIAN

# Order of Worship

December 15, 2024

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;  
to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who struggle and desire victory;  
to all who sin and need a Savior;  
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;  
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;  
and to all who will come,  
this church opens wide her doors  
and offers welcome  
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## REFLECTIONS

The disappointment, brokenness, suffering, and pain that characterize life in this present world is held in dynamic tension with the promise of future glory that is yet to come. In that Advent tension, the church lives its life.

-Fleming Rutledge

Non-Christians seem to think that the Incarnation implies some particular merit or excellence in humanity. But of course it implies just the reverse: a particular demerit and depravity. No creature that deserved Redemption would need to be redeemed. They that are whole need not the physician. Christ died for men precisely because men are not worth dying for; to make them worth it.

-C.S. Lewis

I've become convinced that what makes the difference for Christianity is the incarnation. No other faith says God became flesh... Christmas and the incarnation mean that God went to infinite lengths to make himself one whom we can know personally.

-Tim Keller

## WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

————— TIME OF PRAISE —————

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 2:10-14

Leader: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

**People: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.**

Leader: This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

**All: (Loudly) "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests"**

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

*As a courtesy, please set all communication devices to silent. Thank you.*

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## **ADVENT HYMN\***

Trinity Hymnal #218 (1,2,4,5)

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

## **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Colossians 1:15-20

Leader: Who is Jesus and why did he come?

All: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

## **ADVENT HYMN\***

Trinity Hymnal #195 (1,2,3,4)

*Joy to the World!*

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

## **ADVENT SONG\***

*Come, Oh Redeemer, Come*

## **PUBLIC RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

## CONFESSION OF SIN

O Lord, great God, we are mindful of our sin in coming before you, for we have preferred the ways of this world to your ways, we have rebelled against your wisdom and we have rejected your fatherly guidance. Father, most gracious, filled with mercy and steadfast love, incline your ear to our troubles. Hear us when we pour out our sorrows before you. Forgive us, not on the ground of our own righteousness, but on the ground of your great mercy. Amen.

## PRIVATE CONFESSION & REFLECTION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD

Psalm 145:13-14

Leader: The LORD is faithful in all his words,  
and gracious in all his deeds.  
The LORD upholds all who are falling,  
and raises up all who are bowed down.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you!**

### ADVENT HYMN\*

Trinity Hymnal #201 (1,2,3,4)

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Giving an offering is one way for members and friends of BAPC to support the church's mission and ministry. If you are our guest today, please do not feel under any obligation to give.*

Online  
*Please visit  
bapc.org/give*

Cash or Check  
*Lobby box or mailed  
to the church office*

Text Message  
*Text "Give" to  
833-921-6502*

## CHORAL ANTHEM

Althouse

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

## **DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

*Children ages 4 years through 2nd grade are invited to attend Children's Church in Room 103. If you and your child have not yet received matching security tags, please accompany them to the table in the lobby for check-in.*

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *(concluding with the Lord's Prayer)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE**

John 1:6-13

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

## **MESSAGE**

*Pastor Chris Yates*

His Promise Is Peace  
*The True Light*

## **ADVENT HYMN\***

Trinity Hymnal #208 (1,2,3,4)

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

## **BENEDICTION**

Leader: May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good word and deed.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen!**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Welcome! We're glad you are here with us today.  
To find out more about our upcoming events, studies, and more  
please visit [bapc.org/announcements](http://bapc.org/announcements)**

Today	Mission Trip Fundraiser: Silent Auction	12pm-8pm
Today	Christmas in the Pines	6pm
12/17	The Orchard: College & Career Small Group	6pm
12/18	Youth Group White Elephant Christmas Party	7pm
12/22	No Sunday School	



### **Mission Trip Fundraiser**

**Today, 12pm-8pm**

Bid on a one-of-a-kind handmade cross, created by one of our mission trip team members! The silent auction will open after worship and close at the end of Christmas in the Pines tonight. All proceeds will benefit next year's mission trip and offset travel costs.



### **Christmas in the Pines**

**Tonight at 6pm**

Carols, cocoa, cookies, and more! All are invited to a time of outdoor worship and refreshments under our lit pine trees. Please bring a blanket or chairs with you for seating and invite your friends or neighbors.



### **Poinsettia Dedications**

**Now through December 24**

Honor a loved one or show appreciation to a friend or family member with a poinsettia dedication! Dedications will be featured in the bulletin and slides on December 24th and plants may be gifted or taken home that evening. Visit [bapc.org/christmas](http://bapc.org/christmas) to purchase or contact the church office.



### **Sunday School Break**

**December 15, 22, 29**

While there will be no Sunday School during the final three weeks of December, you're invited to join us in the gym at 10am for coffee and donuts! Sunday School will resume for all ages on January 5.



### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**Tuesday, December 24 at 5pm**

Celebrate the birth of our Savior at our Christmas Eve service filled with Scripture readings and carols! Nursery will be available for children ages 0-3.

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## VOLUNTEER ROTATION

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### **Elder of the Day**

Today: Curtis Briggs  
Next Week: Mike Smith

### **Deacon of the Day**

Today: John Cover  
Next Week: TBD

### **Coffee & Donuts**

Today: Lynn Hershey  
Next Week: Ethan Bouck

### **Communion Preparation**

January: Kathy Felts  
February: Linda Hendrickson

### **Greeters**

Today: Shaw Family  
Next Week: Simpson Family

### **Nursery (9am)**

Today: No Sunday School  
Next Week: No Sunday School

### **Infant Nursery (10:30am)**

Today: Jessica Dill  
Next Week: Sarah Lindblom

### **Toddler Nursery (10:30am)**

Today: Briggs Family  
Next Week: D'Souza Family  
+ Amy Lindblom

### **Children's Church**

Today: Sidor Family  
Next Week: Sidor Family

MEN'S MINISTRY



**Men's Bible Study**  
**Friday, January 17, 7pm**

Join us for a study of Proverbs, as we grow in wisdom and in community together! This study meets monthly in the Adult Sunday School Room.

YOUTH MINISTRY



**Youth Group Christmas Party**  
**Wednesday, December 18 at 7pm**

Our middle school and high school youth will join together for their annual Christmas party during their usual Wednesday night gathering. Bring a wrapped gift labeled "boy" or "girl" for our White Elephant exchange!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



**Women's Bible Study**  
**Resumes January 6 & 8**

Study Acts and the spread of the Gospel with us! This study will resume on Mondays (Zoom, 7:30pm) and Wednesdays (in person, 10am & 7pm). We'll begin Part Three in January- it's the perfect time to join us! More details at [bapc.org/women](http://bapc.org/women)

MISSIONS UPDATE



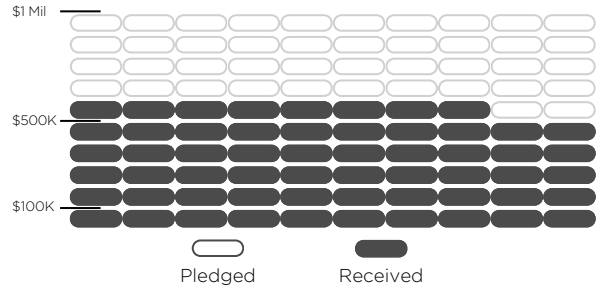
**December Missionary of the Month**  
**Peter & Lauren Dishman**

Peter and Lauren Dishman serve college students in Bogota, Colombia, through a strategic partnership between Mission to the World and Reformed University Fellowship. The Dishmans hope to see students connect with Christ and his church for a lifetime in the "Athens of South America," home to more than 120 institutions of higher education and 1 million students.

This month, please pray that God would draw students to RUF and grow the new Christians who have joined the freshman Bible study. They also request prayers for Bogota's flagship English-speaking church, UCB, as they search for the right pastoral candidate and develop their gospel-centered ministry in their community.

NEHEMIAH PROJECT

**Second Year Goal Period**  
**November 2024-2025**  
 Amount Pledged: \$1,500  
 Amount Received: \$10,208



Principal Paid (Nov 2023-Present): \$587,376  
 Current Mortgage Balance: \$438,535

*Additional principal payments will be made on the last day of each month.*

**Nursery**

Toddler Nursery, Room 108

Infant Nursery, Room 106

*Please note, there will be a 3-week Sunday School break during the weeks of December 15, 22, and 29*

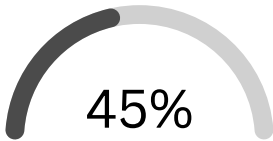
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GIVING UPDATE

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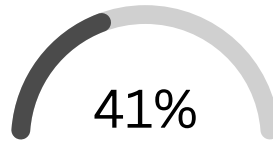
**Monthly Giving**

December Giving Goal: \$70,902  
December Actual Giving: \$34,042  
Amount Under: (\$38,860)



**Annual Giving**

July 2024-June 2025 Annual Budget Goal: \$737,381  
Received as of 12/8/24: \$303,826  
Amount Needed to Reach Annual Goal: (\$433,555)  
Year To Date Budget Shortfall: (\$22,323)



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STAFF & LEADERSHIP

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Chris Yates, Pastor  
Kaitlin Fenner, Director of Business Operations  
Whitney Kelley, Director of Communications & Media  
Traci Lewis, Director of Accounting  
Marcy Ramsey, Assistant to the Pastor  
Hannah Stahl, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries  
Kathy Wright, Director of Choirs

**Elders**  
Curtis Briggs  
Mike Smith

**Deacons**  
John Cover  
Dennis Radford  
Steve Ramsey