

# Advent

GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

December 17, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**Bay Area**  
PRESBYTERIAN

# Order of Worship

December 17, 2023

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

All we could ever imagine, could ever hope for, He is.... He is the Prince of Peace whose first coming has already transformed society but whose second coming will forever establish justice and righteousness. All this, and infinitely more, alive in an impoverished baby in a barn. That is what Christmas means—to find in a place where you would least expect to find anything you want, everything you could ever want.

-Michael Card

I marvel at the Lord, the Creator of the universe, who is born, not surrounded by gold and silver, but by mud and clay.

-St. Jerome of Bethlehem

## WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Susanne and Baliegh Ohmes

————— 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

## PRAYER OF ADVENT

Leader: Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

All: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

**Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. Amen.**

## ADVENT HYMN\*

Trinity Hymnal #196 (1,3,4)

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

————— TIME OF RENEWAL —————

## CALL TO RENEWAL

1 John 2:1-2  
*Elder Chris D'Souza*

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Heavenly Father, we long to recapture the wonder of Christmas. You showed the world your splendor in the coming of your Son, the mystery of God becoming man. Yet, our sins have made us old. Instead of peaceful - our hearts are anxious; instead of joyful - irritable; instead of filled with surprise - bland; instead of anticipation - dread. In our sophistication, we have become impoverished. Have mercy on us, O God. Renew us by your grace and mercy. Deliver us from everything that dims the brightness of your grace in us, from everything that prevents us from taking our deepest delight in you. Amen.

## PRIVATE CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

### WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Zephaniah 3:14-17

Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.

### ADVENT HYMN\*

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

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

————— TIME OF COMMITMENT —————

### 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](http://bapc.org/give)*

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

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

### CHORAL ANTHEM

Davis

*Love Came Down at 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

## SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:1-7

**9** Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. <sup>3</sup>You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. <sup>4</sup>For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. <sup>5</sup>Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

## MESSAGE

*Pastor Chris Yates*

*Christmas - The Rescue From Our Regrets*

## ADVENT HYMN\*

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

*Joy to the World!*

## BENEDICTION\*

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

**People: The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!"**

Leader: Let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

**All: Alleluia! Amen. Come Lord Jesus!**

## DOXOLOGY\*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Welcome! We're so glad you're 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	No Sunday School (All Ages)	9am
Today	Donuts & Coffee Fellowship	10am
12/22-26	Church Office Closed	
12/24	No Sunday School (All Ages)	9am
12/24	Donuts & Coffee Fellowship	10am
12/24	Worship	10:30am
12/24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	5pm

*Please note that there will be a church-wide Sunday School break from December 17-31, 2023.  
Sunday school will resume on January 7, 2024 at 9am for all ages.*



### **Poinsettia Dedications, Today through December 20th**

Poinsettias are a thoughtful way to honor a loved one or show appreciation to a friend or family member. Help us beautify our sanctuary this Christmas by purchasing and dedicating a poinsettia. Dedications will be featured in the bulletin and slides on December 24th and plants may be gifted or taken home that evening. Visit the lobby table after worship or [bapc.org](http://bapc.org) to purchase.



### **Christmas Eve Services, December 24th**

We hope you'll make plans to join us on Christmas Eve! While there will be no Sunday School, we will have our coffee and donut fellowship time at 10am, followed by worship at 10:30am. Then, at 5pm, you're invited to join us for our traditional candlelight service of songs and readings.



### **New Adult Sunday School Class: Putting Our Bibles Together, Begins January 7th**

Join us on Sunday mornings beginning January 7th at 9am as Chris D'Souza leads us in a new adult Sunday School series. This class will investigate eleven key Old Testament passages that play a central role in understanding the Person and Work of Christ so that we can get over our fear of the Old Testament and learn the central themes of the Bible, from one end to the other.



### **Sunday Supper, January 7th at 5:30pm**

Grow in community with us at our monthly fellowship dinner! A variety of soups will be served as the main dish. RSVP at [bapc.org/announcements](http://bapc.org/announcements). Please consider signing up to bring a side dish or dessert. We hope to see you there!

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## VOLUNTEER ROTATION

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### **Elder of the Day**

Today: Chris D'Souza  
Next Week: Mike Bliss

### **Deacon of the Day**

Today: John Cover  
Next Week: Steve Ramsey

### **Coffee & Donuts**

Today: Lynn Hershey  
Next Week: Ethan Bouck

### **Infant Nursery**

Today: Caroline Boone  
Next Week: Laura Gelber

### **Greeters**

Today: Bill + Lauren Shaw  
Next Week: Eric Simpson + Marilyn Smith

### **Communion Preparation**

January: Kathryn Felts  
February: Linda Hendrickson

### **Toddler Nursery**

Today: Hannah Stahl + Rachael Beth Henry  
Next Week: Owens Family

### **Children's Church**

Today: De Anne Meeh + Andrew Boone  
Next Week: Whitney Kelley

MEN'S MINISTRY



**Men's Evening Bible Study**  
**January 19th at 7pm**

Start the new year with a renewed sense of purpose and direction, anchored in the teachings of Christ. Together, we'll delve

into the I Am statements of Christ, discovering the depth of His identity and discovering how they can impact and transform our daily life. Join us in the Adult Sunday School room for a look at Jesus, the Bread of Life.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



**Chronological Bible Reading Plan**  
**Beginning January 1**

Read through the Bible in a year with the Daily Grace Co Bible reading plan! You can join online in the YouVersion app or purchase

the books online. If you already participate in YouVersion devotionals with our Women of the Way ministry, look for an invitation from Marcy Ramsey! Looking to get started? Please contact Marcy or the church office.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



**Youth Group Break**  
**December 20th, 27th, & January 3rd**

Our vibrant youth group is taking a festive break on December 20th, 27th, and January 3rd. We'll be back with renewed energy on January 10th, ready for exciting adventures in the new year. Enjoy the holidays and see you in 2023!

MISSIONS UPDATE



During the month of December, as we join together in prayer for all of our supported missionaries, we invite you to visit [bapc.org/missions](http://bapc.org/missions) to view their bios and sign up for their email newsletters.



**2024 BAPC Mission Trip**  
**Spring Break**

Missed the informational Microsoft Teams meeting? Contact Kathy Felts or the church office for a recording!

NEHEMIAH PROJECT

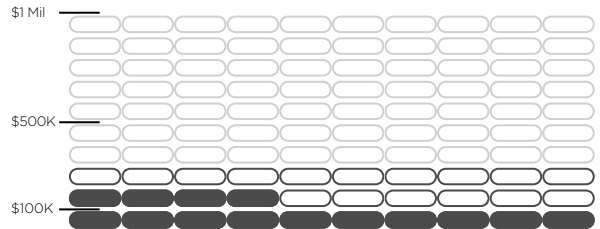
**Initial Goal Period**  
**November 2023-2024**

Amount Pledged: \$301,390

Amount Received: \$147,414

Current Mortgage Balance: \$895,635

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



Pledged

Received

*Pledge Cards Collected: 13*

**Nursery**

Toddler Nursery, Room 108

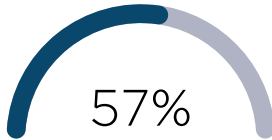
Infant Nursery, Room 106

*Please note, there will be a church-wide Sunday School break from December 17-31, 2023.*

GIVING UPDATE

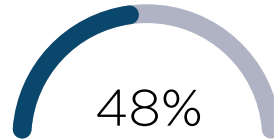
**Monthly Giving**

December Giving Goal: \$64,411  
December Actual Giving: \$36,524  
Amount Under: (\$27,887)



**Annual Giving**

July 2023-June 2024 Annual Budget Goal: \$682,760  
Received as of 12/10/23: \$329,238  
Amount Needed to Reach Annual Goal: (\$353,522)  
Year To Date Budget Shortfall: (\$0)



STAFF & LEADERSHIP

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

**Elders**

Mike Bliss  
Curtis Briggs  
Chris D'Souza  
Mike Smith

**Deacons**

John Cover  
David Kelley  
Dennis Radford  
Steve Ramsey