

# Advent

GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

December 24, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**Bay Area**  
PRESBYTERIAN

# Order of Worship

December 24, 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

Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world.

-C.S. Lewis

He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute.

-St. Augustine

## WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Steve and Jan Davidson

————— TIME OF PRAISE —————

## CALL TO WORSHIP

From the Gospels of Matthew and Luke

Leader: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel.

**People: Our God is with us!**

Leader: Praise be to the Lord,  
the God of Israel.

**People: For he has come and redeemed his people!  
Glory to God in the highest!**

*\*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 #203 (1,2,3)

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

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

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

————— TIME OF RENEWAL —————

## CALL TO RENEWAL

Luke 2:16-20  
*Elder Mike Bliss*

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted the good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to your glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ our Lord.

## PRIVATE CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

### WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Matthew 1:21-22

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet.

### ADVENT HYMN\*

Trinity Hymnal #200 (1,3,4)

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

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### TIME OF COMMITMENT

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### 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

Rutter

*All Bells in Paradise*

### 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

Luke 2:8-17

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

## MESSAGE

*Pastor Chris Yates*

*Glory to God in the Highest*

## ADVENT HYMN\*

Trinity Hymnal #214 (1-4)

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

## 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
12/25-12/29	Church Office Closed	
12/31	Undeck the Halls	12pm
1/1	Church Office Closed	

*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.*



### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Today at 5pm**

Make plans to join us at 5pm for our traditional candlelight service of songs and readings! Nursery will be available for children ages 0-3 years. We hope you will join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior together.



### **Undeck the Halls, December 31st at 12pm**

Join us after worship next Sunday as we put away our Christmas décor and fellowship together! Pizza, fruit, cookies, and lemonade will be served.



### **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: Mike Bliss  
Next Week: Mike Smith

### **Deacon of the Day**

Today: Steve Ramsey  
Next Week: Dennis Radford

### **Coffee & Donuts**

Today: Ethan Bouck  
Next Week: Ethan Stahl

### **Infant Nursery**

Today: Laura Gelber  
Next Week: TBD

### **Greeters**

Today: Eric Simpson + Marilyn Smith  
Next Week: Sandy Tuck + Gracie Briggs

### **Communion Preparation**

January: Kathryn Felts  
February: Linda Hendrickson

### **Toddler Nursery**

Today: Owens Family  
Next Week: Sidor Family

### **Children's Church**

Today: Whitney Kelley  
Next Week: Sam + Josh Kroese

**MEN'S MINISTRY**



**Men's Evening Bible Study  
Friday, 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. Join us in Room 88 for a look at Jesus, the Bread of Life.



**Men's Fellowship Breakfast  
Saturday, January 27th at 8am**

Men, college age and up, are invited to join us for breakfast, a short devotional, and fellowship in Room 88. Grow in

community with the men of BAPC and be strengthened in your relationship with Christ!

**YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**



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

Our 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 2024!

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY**



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

Read through the Bible in a year with us through the Daily Grace Co Bible reading plan! You can join online for free in

the YouVersion app or purchase the books from [thedailygraceco.com](http://thedailygraceco.com). 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.



**Spiritually Fit  
Beginning January 10th**

Exercise your Bible study muscles with us in 2024! Join Marilyn Smith and Amy Antill as they share years of knowledge and practical tools to help you dig into the Word during this 4-session workshop. Sign up at the Women of the Way table in the lobby or at [bapc.org/women](http://bapc.org/women).

**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**

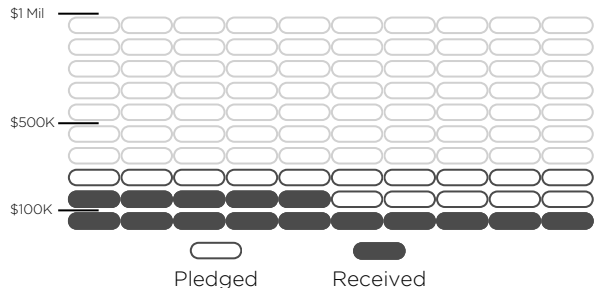
**Initial Goal Period  
November 2023-2024**

Amount Pledged: \$301,870

Amount Received: \$150,993

Current Mortgage Balance: \$895,635

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



Pledged      Received

*Pledge Cards Collected: 15*

**Nursery**

Toddler Nursery, Room 108

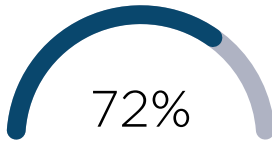
Infant Nursery, Room 106

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

GIVING UPDATE

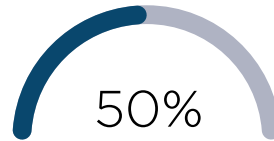
**Monthly Giving**

December Giving Goal: \$64,411  
December Actual Giving: \$46,472  
Amount Under: (\$17,939)



**Annual Giving**

July 2023-June 2024 Annual Budget Goal: \$682,760  
Received as of 12/17/23: \$339,186  
Amount Needed to Reach Annual Goal: (\$343,574)  
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