

Advent

GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

December 3, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Bay Area
PRESBYTERIAN

Order of Worship

December 3, 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

It was not suddenly and unannounced that Jesus came into the world. He came into a world that had been prepared for Him. The whole Old Testament is the story of a special preparation...Only when all was ready, only in the fullness of His time, did Jesus come.

-Phillips Brooks

A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes...and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent.

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Advent should admonish us to discover in each brother or sister that we greet, in each friend whose hand we shake, in each beggar who asks for bread, in each worker who wants to use the right to join a union, in each peasant who looks for work in the coffee groves, the face of Christ.

-Oscar Romero

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Chad, Elizabeth, & Eden Porter

————— TIME OF PRAISE —————

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 60:1-3

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come,
People: And the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
Leader: See, darkness covers the earth,
People: And thick darkness is over the peoples;
Leader: But the LORD rises upon you,
People: And his glory appears over you.
All: Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
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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HYMN OF ADORATION*

Trinity Hymnal #194 (1,3,5)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SONGS OF PRAISE*

*My Soul Magnifies the Lord
Glory in the Highest*

TIME OF RENEWAL

CALL TO RENEWAL

Hebrews 4:15-16
Elder Mike Smith

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. We ask You to please make us ready for his coming again.

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.

SONG OF RESPONSE*

Jesus, Son of God

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*

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

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

CHORAL ANTHEM

arr. Forrest

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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

Micah 5:1-5

5 Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek. **2**But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. **3**Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. **4**And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

MESSAGE

Pastor Chris Yates

Christmas Town

TIME OF COMMUNION

GUIDELINES FOR THE RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

Communion is the family meal for Christians. We welcome all committed followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation which proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer using the prayers that follow as guidelines. We hope that this time is helpful as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ, and with his people, the church.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: Therefore, lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise!

Minister: Together we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(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.

HYMN OF RESPONSE*

Trinity Hymnal #195 (1-4)

Joy to the World

BENEDICTION*

DISMISSAL

Leader: Let us go forth to serve the world as those
who love the Lord Jesus Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYER FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Enable me not to be intimidated by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Please guide me, teach me, and reveal to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

PRAYER OF BELIEF

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I believe that you lived a perfect life so that through faith in you I might be received by God and declared righteous. I thank you that when you died on the cross you endured the punishment I deserve because of my sin, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and embrace you by faith as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THOSE OVERCOME WITH SIN

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the Pioneer and Perfecter of my faith. Help me not to be deceived by offers of false satisfaction and to delight in You more than anything else. Amen.

PRAYER FOR COVENANT CHILDREN (Not Yet Admitted to the Lord's Supper)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you. Please work in my heart to believe the gospel for myself, not just because my parents believe. Give me a longing to know Jesus better and to serve Him with my whole heart. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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**

Today	Communion Sunday	10:30am
12/6	Middle School & High School Youth Groups	7pm
12/7	Ladies' Christmas Tea	7pm
12/9	Christmas Concert Setup	5pm
12/10	"Minutes from Mission Ministry"	9am
12/10	Christmas Concert & Dinner	5pm
12/17, 12/24, & 12/31	No Sunday School (All Ages)	

Please note that Sunday Supper will not take place in December. Sunday Supper will resume on January 7, 2024.



Choir Concert and Dinner, Deadline to Purchase Dinner Tickets is Today!

This annual tradition is the highlight of the Christmas season! Join us on Sunday, December 10th at 5pm for a free Christmas concert and a catered dinner afterward. Dinner tickets may be purchased at bapc.org/announcements or in the lobby following worship. Today is the final day to purchase dinner tickets.



Christmas in the Pines, December 16th at 7pm

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



Sanctuary Foster Care Christmas Party, December 16th from 2-7pm at Sagemont Church

Encourage and serve local foster parents and their children by volunteering at Sanctuary's Christmas party! BAPC's Micah Ministry is seeking volunteers to help set up, serve food, help children with crafts, assist parents in the gift shopping room, direct parking, and break down. If interested, please sign up by scanning the QR code to the left and contact Callie Edwards.



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 to purchase.



Christmas Eve Services

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.

VOLUNTEER ROTATION

Elder of the Day

Today: Mike Smith
Next Week: Curtis Briggs

Deacon of the Day

Today: David Kelley
Next Week: Dennis Radford

Coffee & Donuts

Today: Clay McCarty
Next Week: Kyle Bullock

Infant Nursery

Today: Kathryn Felts
Next Week: Connie D'Souza

Toddler Nursery

Today: Lauren + Matt Cavanaugh
Next Week: Bouck Family

Children's Church

Today: Juli + Aaron Simpson
Next Week: Sam + Josh Kroese

Communion Preparation

December: Jack + Heather Amuny
January: Kathryn Felts

Greeters

Today: Eric Simpson + Cathy Mahlstedt
Next Week: Niko Laliotitis + Ned Penley

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Youth Group Christmas Parties
December 13th, 7pm

Middle and High School students are encouraged to invite a friend or two and join us for snacks, games, and more! Please bring a wrapped gift (\$10 or less) if you would like to participate in the gift exchange.



Kids' Cookie Decorating Party
December 16th, 6:15pm

Unleash your creativity at our Christmas Cookie Decorating Party! Join us for sweet treats and holiday fun in the gym before Christmas in the Pines at 6:15pm. Please RSVP at bapc.org/announcements or contact the church office.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Ladies' Christmas Tea
December 7th, 7pm

You're invited to our annual Christmas party at the home of Karen Calhoun! Please bring a wrapped ornament and an appetizer and join us for fellowship, carols, an ornament exchange and more. RSVP to Karen by phone/text or contact the church office; due to parking limitations please carpool if possible.

MISSIONS UPDATE



**"Minutes from Mission Ministry:
First Hand Accounts from the Field".**
December 10th, 9am

Join us next week during the Sunday School hour as we hear from several BAPC members about their experience with past mission trips, followed by time of Q&A.

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 to view their bios and sign up for their email newsletters (where applicable).

NEHEMIAH PROJECT

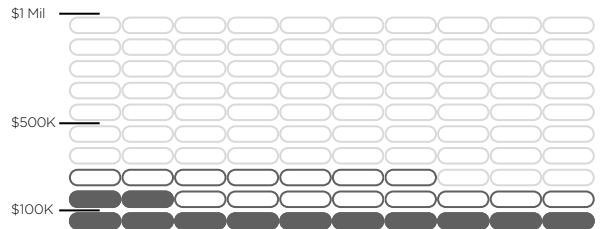
Initial Goal Period
November 2023-2024

Amount Pledged: \$275,790

Amount Received: \$126,440

Current Mortgage Balance: \$899,722

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



Pledged

Received

Pledge Cards Collected: 10

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT BAY AREA PRESBYTERIAN

Adults

The Covenant Songs of Christmas, Room 88
12/10: Minutes From Mission

9th - 12th Grade

Galatians, Youth Room

5th - 8th Grade

Corinthians to Philemon, Room 91

3rd - 4th Grade

God's Servants, Room 104

1st - 2nd Grade

Pleasing God, Room 102

PreK - Kindergarten

God Keeps His Promises, Room 107

Nursery

Toddler Nursery, Room 108

Infant Nursery, Room 106

**Children in PreK-2nd grade begin the Sunday School with a time of singing and musical instruction from our Choir Director, Kathy Wright.*

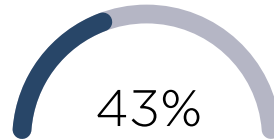
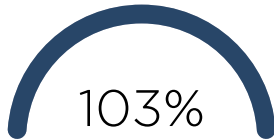
GIVING UPDATE

Monthly Giving

November Giving Goal: \$51,529
November Actual Giving: \$52,893
Amount Under: (\$0)

Annual Giving

July 2023-June 2024 Annual Budget Goal: \$682,760
Received as of 11/30/23: \$292,714
Amount Needed to Reach Annual Goal: (\$390,046)
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