

# Welcome to Watsonville First United Methodist Church

## Our Mission

*Tipping the world toward love  
by following the Way of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of ourselves and the world*

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Friday, December 24, 2021, 5 pm

**\*[Our in-person Sunday worship in the Sanctuary requires masks for all.  
Please continue to practice 6 feet physical distancing whenever possible.]**

**We welcome all visitors today!** Thank you for being here and gracing us with your presence. Please fill out the **Visitation Card** found in the pew and either place it in the offering plate or deposit into the *Suggestion Box* in the narthex nave.

**Children** are invited to enjoy the resources in the **Children Learning Center** located at the back of the sanctuary during worship. Children are welcome to check out books and activity items to take home by signing the simple "*Check-out Sheet*" on clipboard there.

## Words of Meditation

*The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness;  
on them light has shined.*

~ Isaiah 9:2

*Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years,  
Are met in thee tonight.  
~ from carol, O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*"Do not be afraid!  
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:  
to you is born this day in the city of David  
a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."*

~ Luke 2:10-1

*(\*Please stand if you are able)*

## Bringing in the Light

### Welcome and Opening Prayer

Rev. John Song

### Introit

*O Holy Night*  
Adolphe Charles Adam, arr. Matthew Tang

Vanessa Yearsley, Soprano

**Lighting of the Christ Candles**

Avitua &amp; Abenoja Families

**Reader 1:** Tonight we light the Christ candle to remind us that the light of the world was born this night. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness—on them a light has shined.

**Reader 2:** We light the first Advent candle, reflecting on God's call to '*not be afraid*' and to be people of hope and faith.

*Light one purple candle.*

**Reader 3:** We light the second Advent, reflecting on God's call to be people of love, justice and peace.

*Light one purple candle.*

**Reader 4:** We light the third Advent, reflecting on God's call to be people of forgiveness and reconciliation.

*Light the pink candle.*

**Reader 5:** We light the fourth Advent, reflecting on God's call to faithfulness to God and not to Caesar, to become a New Being in Christ who transforms the world.

*Light one purple candle.*

**People:**

**For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders. His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. He is called Emmanuel, God with us.**

**Reader 6:** Finally, on this holy night, we light the Christ candle to celebrate the light God has sent into the world in the birth of God in Christ Jesus, the light of the world.

*Light the Christ candle in the center.*

**\*Call to Celebration**

Leader: Let's go right now to Bethlehem

**People: and see what the shepherds saw.**

Leader: Let's go right now to see what's happened

**People: and rejoice in the birth of Christ.**

Leader: Let's go right now to ponder with Mary,

**People: to listen and remember,**

**All: and to rejoice in the miracle of Christmas.**

**\*Christmas Prayer (in Unison)**

O wondrous God of the stars,  
we come tonight with breathless wonder,  
to see the babe who will change our lives.

We hear the names Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Prince of Peace,  
and we are in awe.

You have touched the earth this night  
with your unconditional love.

Touch our hearts and minds and souls—  
that we may never tire of this story,  
or take it for granted.

Make this night magical again  
filled with awe and wonder. Amen.

**\*Opening Carol**

*What Child Is This*

#219 (vs. 1, 2)

**Christmas Offering**

This evening's offering will be given to ***Pajaro Valley Shelter Services*** in Watsonville. Pajaro Valley Shelter Services provides families with a path to stable, self-sufficient futures through short- and longer-term housing and supportive services. Please make your checks payable to "Watsonville FUMC" with an annotation to PVSS. Thank you for your generosity this Christmas.

**Offertory**

**\*Presentation of the Gifts**

**\*Doxology**

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* #240 (v. 3)

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give them second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

**\*Offering Prayer (in Unison)**

**Out of the noise and glitter and ho-ho-ho of the world's Christmas, we have come away, O God, into this hour in your presence. Help us to discover here the true meaning and joy that lie beneath the surface of the holy day. Help us to see beyond the Baby in the manger to the fully human and fully divine Jesus became so that we, too, can become fully human and fully divine. Be born in us this night, renew our spirits, and strengthen us to be your people in the world. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

## **Story of Christmas from the Gospel According to Luke**

**Luke 1: 26-38**

**THE ANNUNCIATION**  
*The Birth of Jesus Foretold*

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Song**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

#230 (vs. 1, 2)

**Luke 1: 39-56**

**THE MAGNIFICAT: Mary's Hymn of Praise**

*Mary Visits Elizabeth*

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

*Mary's Song of Praise*

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”  
<sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her about three months  
and then returned to her home.

**Song** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* #218 (vs. 1, 2)

**Luke 2: 1-7 THE BIRTH OF JESUS**

<sup>2</sup> In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Song** *The First Noel* #245 (vs. 1, 2)

**Luke 2: 8-14 THE APPEARANCE OF ANGEL CHOIR**

*The Shepherds and the Angels*

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven  
and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”

**Song** *Angels We Have Heard on High* #238 (vs. 2, 3)

**Luke 2: 15-20 THE VISIT OF SHEPHERDS**

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## Receiving the Light of Christ

### Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your God in heaven.”

#### \*Unison Prayer

To the home of peace, to the field of love  
to the land where forgiveness and right relationship meet  
we look, O God, with longing for earth's children  
with compassion for the creatures  
with hearts breaking for the nations and people we love.  
Open us to visions we have never known  
strengthen us for self-giving we have never made  
delight us with a oneness we could never have imagined  
that we may truly be born of You, the maker of peace.

#### \*Sing in Acappella

#### *Silent Night, Holy Night*

1. Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin  
mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds' quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!
3. Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light;  
radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

4. Silent night, holy night,  
wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!

Thank you for joining us for the Christmas Eve service. You may depart in silence to preserve the solemnity of receiving the Light of Christ. Please place the candle in the basket at the back of the sanctuary as you depart.

\*For those who would like to linger a while, please join us for a light snack and fellowship in the Narthex (back of the sanctuary).

***We at the Watsonville First United Methodist Church  
Wish you and your loved ones a warm and blessed Merry Christmas!***

**Liturgists:** Tahja Martinez, Febe Avitua

**Ushers/Greeters:** Marieta Flores

**Tech Team:** Lucila Pantaleon, Mike Locke-Paddon

### **Calendar for the Week**

|                              |          |   |
|------------------------------|----------|---|
| Fri., Dec. 24                | 5:00 pm  | <b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</b>  |
| Sat., Dec 25                 |          | <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</b>   |
| Sun., Dec. 26                | 10:00 am | <b>Last Sunday of the Year</b><br><b>Guest Preacher: Carmelita Abenoja</b><br><b>Children/Youth Piano Recital</b> |
|                              | 11:10 am | Coffee Hour, Social Hall  |
| Tue., Dec. 28 – Fri., Dec 31 |          | <b>OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS</b>   |
| Sat., Jan. 1                 |          | Happy New Year!   |
| Sun., Jan. 2                 | 10:00 am | <b>First Sunday of Epiphany</b><br><b>Guest Preacher: Alice Ann Glenn</b>   |
|                              | 11:10 am | Coffee Hour, Social Hall  |

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Rev. John Juno Song, Pastor  
Mike Locke-Paddon, Music Director  
Marina Thomas, Pianist  
Antonio Pantaleon, Media Director

Give online at <https://watsonville1stumc.org/donation/> or  
mail your checks to 229 Stanford Street, Watsonville, CA 95076

