



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF VISTA
490 S. MELROSE DRIVE | VISTA, CALIFORNIA 92081 | (760) 726-0442

Worship Bulletin of the United Methodist Church of Vista

Live-stream for Worship at 10 a.m., go to: livestream.umcvista.org

In-house and Live-stream Worship

December 17, 2023

10:00 a.m.

3rd Sunday of Advent

Gathering

Gathering Music

Jimmy Patton and Enrique Platas

Pastoral Welcome with Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Opening Prayer with Dakota Koenig, Certified Lay Minister

Spirit of the Lord God, you bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners. You comfort all who mourn, and shower your people with the oil of gladness instead of mourning; a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. We will greatly rejoice in the Lord, our whole being shall exult in God, for the sake of the One who brought righteousness to life, Jesus Christ our salvation. Amen.

Song of Welcome

O Little Town of Bethlehem UMH 230, Vs. 1-4

Words: Phillips Brooks

Music: Lewis H. Redner

Praise Band

Advent Candle Lighting with Sara Baldwin/Gayla Prociv

Leader: We light the third candle of Advent.

(With the first two candles burning, a family member lights the third candle.)

People: We look to John, the one you sent, to point us to your light. The light will come into our world and enlighten everyone.

Leader: God sent John the Baptizer to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus Christ, the true Light of the World. John called for people to repent of their sins and to live faithfully. He baptized with cleansing water and proclaimed the new life that Christ, the one who would follow him, would bring. This Advent, we ask for God's mercy and a joyful new beginning.

People: Merciful God, we give thanks that you send messengers like John to call us to greater faith. We ask that in these days we prepare for you in prayer and acts of holy compassion. Forgive us and lead us to your light. Amen.



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Song of the Word

Star-Child FWS 2095, Vs. 1-5
Words: Shirley Erena Murray
Music: Carlton R. Young
Praise Band

Gathering at the Nativity

***Children's Time (and released to Sunday School)**

Sharing the Word

Scripture with Diane Biggs

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 and John 1:6-8, 19-28 (NRSV)

Message

Pointing to the Light
Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Song

Go, Tell It on the Mountain UMH 251, Vs. 1-3
Words: John W. Work
Music: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith
Praise Band

Pastoral Prayer with Lord's Prayer with Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Response to the Word

Special Music

El Tamborilero (Little Drummer Boy)
Words and Music: Harry Simeone, Henry Onorati and Katherine Kennicott Davis
Arranged by: Jimmy Patton and Enrique Platas

***Call to Offering and Action** with John Giard

Invitation and Dedication: Prayer

God of hope and compassion: Just as John the Baptist came long ago in Judea to witness to your light, we remember that the light he heralds is the savior of hope. Sometimes it seems our world is determined to extinguish hope and light. We admit that there are times when we feel the darkness is just too prevalent, too strong, and hope is just wishful thinking. May we witness through our giving not scarcity and despair but fierce joy, hope, and compassion. May we also witness through what we say and what we do. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.



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Commissioned into the World

Song of Sending

Angels from the Realms of Glory UMH 220, Vs. 1-3

Words: James Montgomery

Music: Henry T. Smart

Praise Band

Benediction with Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Postlude

Jimmy Patton and Enrique Platas

Pastors: Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw, Associate Pastor of Music and Visitation,
Rev. Frank Hallock and Dakota Koenig, Certified Lay Minister



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Music Acknowledgements

Praise Band: Greg Rye, Roy Good, Jimmy Patton, Adam Ferrara, Alden Stoneman, Heather Clarke, Melissa Giard, Heidi Kendall, Barbara Mitchell and Jan Simpson

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” Words: Phillips Brooks ca. 1868, Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1968, © United Methodist Publishing House 1989

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“Go Tell it on the Mountain” Words: John W. Work 1907 Music: Traditional Spiritual, arr. William Farley Smith 1986, arr.© United Methodist Publishing House 1989

“Little Drummer Boy: Words and Music: Harry Simeone / Henry Onorati / Katherine Davis, arr. Jimmy Patton and Enrique Platas © EMI Mills Music Inc | Remaining portion is unaffiliated For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 213731

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Announcements

During Advent we will be building a unique and dynamic nativity scene. Pastor Leigh Ann is collecting a piece from all members of the congregation to create a messy, unusual vision of Christ's birth. Any one piece that is a part of the story of the Nativity is welcome and should be considered a donated gift for someone else. On Christmas Eve all the pieces will be available to take home and added to your family Christmas celebration.

The **Call to Offering and Action** highlights our response to God's love through our action, service and financial support. Each week we pray for a community partner, special project and/or people who are making a difference in our community and world. The United Methodist Church and this local congregation live our faith through our giving in many ways. Your giving starts here and is multiplied by God. Thank you.

Giving thanks for your Support and Contributions: You are essential to all we do for Vista and beyond. Please consider making a financial contribution to the ongoing work of this faith community. Your monetary gifts can be dropped in the offering box, put through the secure mail slot near the office or use your credit card at the Scrip table. Thank you!

The nursery is available to receive little ones. The cry room is also available for parents to use. For more information or questions, see Margene Haase.

Just a reminder: Appreciation Luncheon for congregation is Sunday, Dec. 30 from 12 to 2 p.m. Today is the last day to sign up in the Narthex for pizza and ice cream.

Today, United Women in Faith's Annual Christmas Bake Sale! Goodies will be boxed and ready for you to give as gifts. Stop by the table in the narthex to select your homemade treats and support the mission of United Women in Faith.

Postponing today's Christmas Concert: Friends, with an abundance of caution and care for one another, those in our music ministry and extended musical community, we have made the decision to postpone our concert until January. We've had additional COVID positive cases since last Sunday and believe it is responsible to move our concert to a better time to prevent spread and allow healing. Thank you for your understanding! Please watch for a new date soon. Pastor Leigh Ann

Youth Happenings... Youth Group today from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. See John Giard with any questions.



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Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Worship

Worship – 10:00 a.m. (An interpreter for the Deaf/and hard-of-hearing will be here.)

Family Candlelight Worship – 5:00 p.m.

Dec. 31, New Year's Eve Online Worship – 10:00 a.m.

The Sunday After Christmas: Take time to **Rest, Restore and Reconnect** with yourself, your spirit and your family. We offer 3 ways to support you: Join us in worship online on our YouTube channel, OR Offer an hour of your service to your favorite community partner, OR Visit one of our sister congregations on the 78 corridor. We give thanks for the leadership of this congregation that has worked faithfully to serve God and bring Advent alive as we welcome the Christ Child and we take this day of Sabbath to rest, restore and reconnect.



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PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

Lead Pastor.....Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw
Associate Pastor of Music and Visitation.....Rev. Frank Hallock
Office Manager.....Paula Amaro
Bookkeeper.....Joann Balardeta
Youth Ministry CoordinatorJohn Giard
Music Accompanist (Organist/Pianist).....Adam Ferrara
Video Worship Technology Director.....Michael Beu
Video Worship Technology Assistant.....Joseph Smith, Amanda Stanaland,
.....and Alden Stoneman
Certified Lay Minister Special Assistant to Clergy.....Dakota Koenig
Lay Leaders..... Dakota Koenig and Rollin Grider
Trustees Chair.....Scott Lyons
Pastor Emeriti.....Rev. Lanny Arrowsmith
Missionaries Paul Jeffrey, Katherine Parker, Mozart Makafui Adevu,
.....and Claudia Genung Yamamoto
South District Superintendent.....Rev. Sandra Olewine
Bishop of the Los Angeles,
Episcopal Area Bishop.....Dottie Escobedo-Frank

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