



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 24, 2023

10:00 a.m.

4th Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve

Gathering

Praise Band Prelude

We Need a Little Christmas

Words and Music: Jerry Herman

Praise Band

Gathering Music

I Wonder as I Wander

Music: Arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Tim Smith and Adam Ferrara, Duet

Pastoral Welcome with Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Opening Prayer with Dakota Koenig, Certified Lay Minister

God of the now and the yet to be, we come to this worship service in anticipation and breathlessness. We are breathless from last-minute Christmas shopping and family dinner preparations. We are on the edge of time between the barrenness of autumn and the bright white of winter. We are on the edge of expectant pregnancy and new birth. We are on the edge of the joy of anticipation and the fear of facing the unknown. We are at the edge of the seriousness of Advent and the joy of Christmas. Help us not to fear being on the edge of newness and change; help us to hear your words of blessing and hope, comfort, and peace, so that we may worship you in this time together. Amen.

Song of Welcome

Angels We Have Heard on High UMH 238, Vs. 1-4

Words: Trad. French carol

Music: French carol melody; arr. by Edward Shippen Barnes

Praise Band



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Advent Candle Lighting with Melissa and John Giard

Leader: O God, we light the fourth candle of Advent.

(With the first three candles burning, a family member lights the fourth candle.)

People: We hear your angel Gabriel and witness the faith of Mary. Fill us with your grace and light.

Leader: Mary was a young, strong, spiritual woman. Even though her life was not easy, she heard God's voice and said yes. Her song was a prayer that would uplift those who were downtrodden. Her lyrics shattered the proud and called the world to change. She would bear within her the promised child, Jesus, the Light of the World. This Advent, we respond to God's beckoning to us as well.

People: Revealing God, visit us and fill us with your Spirit. Bring your good news to life within us. Give us courage to carry your light into the injustices and shadows of this world. Amen.

Song of the Word

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

Words: Phillips Brooks

Music: Lewis H. Redner

Praise Band

Gathering at the Nativity

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

Sharing the Word

Scripture with Alfred Chappell

[Luke 1:26-38](#) (NRSV)

Message

Listening

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Song

Away in a Manger UMH 217, Vs. 1-3

Words: Anon.

Music: James R. Murray

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.



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Response to the Word

Special Music

The Christmas Song

Words and Music: Mel Tormé and Robert Wells
Adam Ferrara, Piano

***Call to Offering and Action** with Rev. Frank Hallock

Invitation and Dedication: Prayer

Gracious and Generous God: We offer our gifts to you, knowing that the energy exerted in our giving is tiny compared to what we've expended finding the gifts for our families and friends. You have given us a glimpse of the gift you truly seek in the angel's conversation with Mary: when told that she would give birth to our savior, she simply said, "Yes, let it be according to your word." May that affirmation of faith and obedience be the gift we offer this day. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

Commissioned into the World

Song of Sending

Joy to the World UMH 246, Vs. 1-4

Words: Issac Watts

Music: Arr. from G.F. Handel

Praise Band

Benediction with Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Postlude

Joy to the World

Music: Arr. Joel Raney

Tim Smith and Adam Ferrara, Duet

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

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Announcements

Interpreter for the Deaf: Today we welcome an interpreter for the Deaf/and hard-of-hearing. Congregational Care is providing funds for this pilot program. We are striving to ensure that God's Word is accessible to all. Please invite anyone you feel could benefit from this service.

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Worship

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.

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 (pizza and ice cream) for congregation is Sunday, Dec. 30 from 12 to 2 p.m.



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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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