



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

Worship Bulletin of the United Methodist Church of Vista

December 24, 2023
5:00 p.m.
Family Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship

Please be aware: For best conservation and stewardship practice, the worship bulletin will not be printed from the office. The order of Worship and weekly information will be on the screens, and continue to be emailed for your use.

Gathering

Gathering Music

“Linus and Lucy”

Music: Vince Guaraldi

Adam Ferrara and Jimmy Patton

Pastoral Welcome with Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Advent Candle Lighting Song

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” UMH 211, Vs. 1-3

Words: 9th Century Latin

Music: 15th Century French

Jimmy Patton and Adam Ferrara

Advent Candle Lighting with the Stempson Family

Watch and wait for Christ’s coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer. Light the candle of our Christ.

We light this candle for hope.

We light this candle for peace.

We light this candle for joy.

We light this candle for love.

As our redemption draws near, we light this candle for our Christ.

The prophet Isaiah said, 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. For a child has been born for us, a son is given to us.

Let us pray, **Holy One, We see the light that is God’s light. The light of God is joy for all the earth, peace that brings healing and love that sustains us eternally. The angels have brought the message and we celebrate the birth of the Christ child tonight! Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

Song

“What Child Is This” UMH 219, Vs. 1-2

Words: William C. Dix



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Music: 16th cent. English melody
Adam Ferrara and Jimmy Patton, Guitar

Scripture Reading with Dakota Koenig
[Isaiah 9:2-7](#) (NRSV)

Christmas Video: Christmas According to Kids by Igniter Media

Sharing the Word

Scripture Reading with Dakota Koenig
[Luke 2:1-14](#) (NRSV)

Song

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” UMH 240, Vs. 1-3
Words: Charles Wesley
Music: Felix Mendelssohn
Adam Ferrara

Scripture Reading with Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw
[Luke 2:15-20](#) (NRSV)

Christmas Eve Homily
The Greatest Surprise
Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Community

Unexpected God, you arrive when we are still scrambling to get ready. You arrive in the darkness of all living. You arrive as a small baby and greet us with coos of love. Open our ears to hear the visions of the angels, the surprise of the shepherds and the wisdom of the kings. Open our heart to feel your forgiving grace. Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen!

Special Music

“Sussex Carol”
Music: Adam Ferrara and Jimmy Patton
Jimmy Patton and Adam Ferrara

Response to the Word

***Call to Offering and Action** with Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Invitation and Dedication: Prayer

Gracious God, our focus for much of this season has been on purchasing gifts for others, or wondering what we will receive. We sometimes forget that all we have comes from you. And that the most precious gift we will ever receive is your grace. It is right that we offer you our gifts, freely and joyfully given to your glory and to further the work of your kingdom. Bless our finances that they may better this community in your name and bless our commitment to action that we may be your hands and feet in the world. Amen.



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Commissioned into the World

Song of Sending

“Silent Night, Holy Night” UMH 239, Vs. 1, 4

Words: Joseph Mohr

Music: Franz Gruber

Adam Ferrara

Benediction with Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Postlude

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Words: Joseph Mohr

Music: Franz Gruber; Arr. Jimmy Patton

Jimmy Patton

****Please wait to leave until the pastors have recessed.**

Please keep the aisles clear for safety and fire code enforcement. Wheelchair seating is available; please speak to an usher.

Reminder: Please turn off the sound on your cell phone during worship so that others can enjoy and stay focused on worship. Thank you.

Partners in Ministry: Pastor, Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw and Associate Pastor of Music and Visitation, Rev. Frank Hallock



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“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Words: Charles Wesley, 1734, alt George Whitfield 1753, Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1849, © United Methodist Publishing House 1989

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Announcements

Special Christmas Call to Offering and Action: We believe that faith isn't just the words we speak in worship, but also how we live our lives. We believe that we are called to give financially to support the ministry of this church, and also to give our time and talents. We believe caring for our neighbor is an act of faith. We believe that showing patience and compassion to a stranger is an act of faith. We believe that lifting the broken and housing the unhoused is an act of faith. We believe that being a follower of Jesus isn't just for a Sunday, but happens every day of the week.

Sunday Mornings at UMC Vista: If you are new to this faith community or new to the area, WELCOME! We hope you will return another time. Our Sunday morning service is at 10 a.m. We also have a YouTube channel where you can find the previous worship services, and other material from Pastor Leigh Ann. Bring your favorite coffee and join us!

Special Online Worship with our Southern California Conference of United Methodists: December 26 we will be worshipping online from our homes with our whole region. Worship link is

<https://youtu.be/Khfv-7e9ZIQ>. We will not be sharing in person worship and will return in person on January 2 at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Paula Amaro in the office.

Thank you 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 or a giving plate in the narthex/lobby after worship. Thank you!



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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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