



Heidi M. Kendall, Artist

United Methodist Church of Vista

490 South Melrose Drive—Vista, CA 92081—Phone: (760) 726-0442

Bulletin

December 25, 2016
Christmas Day
10:00 am

Silent Meditation

“What keeps the wild hope of Christmas alive year after year in a world notorious for dashing all hopes is the haunting dream that the child who was born that day may yet be born again in us.”

—Frederick Buechner

Prelude

-Henry Doktorski

Welcome

-Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw
Beckie Henselmeier

Introit

“O Holy Night” (Adam)

-Rev. Frank Hallock

Invocation

When prompted, please read together these ‘Christmas Beatitudes’ by David Rhys Williams, adapted.

**Blessed are they who have vision enough to behold a guiding star
midst the darkness and mystery which is life on earth.**

**Blessed are they who have imagination enough to detect the music
of celestial voices in the midnight hours of life.**

**Blessed are they who have faith enough to contemplate a world of peace and justice
in the midst of present wrong and strife.**

Blessed are they who have zest enough to take delight in simple things.

**Blessed are they who have wisdom enough to know that the Kingdom of Heaven
is very close at hand, and that all may enter in who have eyes to see
and ears to hear and hearts to understand.**

***Opening Hymn**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

-UMH 234, Vs. 1-3, 6

***Lighting Advent and Christ Candles**

In Advent season each week we have pointed the way to Christmas. Hope, Peace, Joy and Love are our touchstones on the journey Home. Today we arrive at Christmas once again, just as many have done for centuries before us. And so we come, the cloud of witnesses who have gathered at the manger.

With the coming of this light, there is born once again the simple transforming freedom the Christ Child brings the world! May our lives be the Good News of renewed Hope! May we be God’s people every day, and always care for one another and for all of God’s Creation...with our hearts and hands, minds and souls! We light these candles proclaiming the coming of the Light of God into the world. We light these candles for all of our community and the world to see!

Scripture *Luke 2:1-7 in the New Testament*

-Rollin Grider/Lynda Mounts

***Hymn**

“Away in a Manger”

-UMH 217, Vs. 1&3



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Time with Children

Children are invited to come forward with a toy they would like blessed. Children will return to their parents after the blessing.

Scripture *Luke 2:8-12 in the New Testament* -Rollin Grider/Lynda Mounts

Hymn "First Noel" -UMH 245, Vs 1&2

Scripture *Luke 2:13-20 in the New Testament* -Rollin Grider/Lynda Mounts

Hymn "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" -UMH 240, Vs. 1&3

Message "The Beauty of God's Light" -Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Affirmation of Faith

When prompted, please read together 'The Work of Christmas' by Howard Thurman

**When the star in the sky is gone,
When the Kings and Princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins.
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To teach the nations,
To bring 'Christ' to all,
To make music in the heart.**

Our Offering

As the plate is passed, let us sing, "O Little Town of Bethlehem" -UMH 230, Vs 1&4

***Offertory Song** -Henry Doktorski

*Offertory Prayer

Holy Child of Bethlehem, bless these gifts we give, that they may cast a light of life to all in need. Where there is pain and suffering, we pray for healing relief. Where there is desperation, we pray for hope. Where there is fatigue, we pray for renewed energy. In Christ name, we pray. Amen!



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Prayer of Great Thanksgiving for Christmas

God is with us

We are not alone

Christ is present here

The Spirit moves within us

Let us give thanks to God

In memory and in hope

Blessings be to you, Creator God,

Who in the beginning brought light and life to the world and who continues to bring it love and light everlasting.

Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages, your ancient promise still brings us hope.

Over the ages you have called people to embrace your hope and share your love.

But even when they have closed their ears to the song you did not stop singing.

You sent prophets and messengers to your people, reminding them of the promised time of peace and justice that would surround the world.

They came in the midst of our despair and filled us with hope.

And then you came to a young woman named Mary and laid out the promise in a new way:

Promising her a son, who would be called Jesus;

Promising her that in her son the world would be changed.

And now as we celebrate the birth of that child, we echo the ancient cry:

O come, O come Emmanuel, O God of time and space.

All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your Grace.

Hosanna in the highest heaven creation sings your praise.

And blessed is the One who comes and bears Your name always.

Yet even now, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, we remember the life that this baby will live. We remember how he broke the bonds of human tradition to show all what the Banquet of Hope could be as he ate openly with the despised and the outcast of his world. And we remember one special meal, foretaste of the banquet that is to come, that he ate with his closest friends.

Gathering them together in an upper room to share the story of liberation, he prepared them for liberation. And at the end of the meal he took bread, blessed and broke it, then passed it to them saying: Take and eat. This bread is the body of Life, broken by the world. Eat it in remembrance and in hope.



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After that he took the cup, blessed it, and passed it to them saying: This cup is the sign of the New Covenant. Whenever you drink it remember me, for I shall not eat or drink again until the time of the heavenly banquet. Remembering the birth of the child in the stable, we remember also his life, his death and his resurrection. We remember how he poured his love out to all he met and look forward to his return and the coming reign of peace, love, and justice.

And in our remembering we proclaim the mystery of our faith
**Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!**

God, you poured your Spirit on Mary and she sang words of defiance and hope.
Pour out your Spirit upon us gathered here. As we eat and drink may we know your presence.

As we eat and drink may we be opened to the possibilities of your hope and power
And may we be strengthened in our time of waiting for peace and justice so that we will have the courage to make the Christmas promise a reality.

And now, as beloved children of a loving Parent, we pray:

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The Bread we break is the Bread of Life
The Cup we Share is the Cup of Promise
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

Come and eat, the banquet awaits!

Prayer After Communion

God of eternal promise, God of child-like hope, we have eaten and drunk from your table. May the eating and drinking fill us with hope in a world of despair. May we be beacons of hope as we wait for the day when the world is changed. Grant that this taste of your banquet which is to come would give us the hunger for peace and justice in our community and around the world. Amen.

Final Hymn

“Joy to the World”

-UMH 246

Postlude

-Henry Doktorski

**Please stand if you are able.*



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Today: Video Tech: Jake Henselmeier; Sound Tech: TBA; and Acolyte(s): TBA

*Please complete the registration card found in the pew pocket and place in the offering.
Prayers and comments may be written on the back of the card.*

**Flowers are given by Tom and Sue Humphrey
in honor of their 53rd wedding anniversary on December 29.**