



ORDER OF WORSHIP

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2016



**indicates a time to stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

Dr. Christopher Davis

WELCOME

Dr. Brett Becker

* **GREETING** *responsive*

ONE: Love caused the incarnation. Love brought Jesus to us.

MANY: We come in joy to welcome Christ, most holy.

* **PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you!

OTHER: And also with you!

* **ADVENT HYMN OF GATHERING** "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Hymnal, #2

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** *responsive*

Maggie Knauss

ONE: A light shining in the darkness . . .

MANY: What could it be?

ONE: The sound of angels' wings . . .

MANY: What could it mean?

ONE: A baby born in a stable . . .

MANY: Who could it be?

ONE: Come to Bethlehem and see

MANY: And worship Christ the newborn king

* **HYMN OF GATHERING** "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

Hymnal, #11

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Lindsay and Lila Woodard

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *unison*

Lila Woodard

Loving God, even in the midst of this season of goodwill, there is much to confess. In spite of holiday cheer, stress and anxiety rule our lives. We miss the reason for the season, focusing instead on Christmas parties, long to-do lists, and trying to get the shopping done. We fail to think about your reordered world—a world where the lowly are lifted up and the hungry are filled with good things. Help us adjust our Christmas priorities that we might join with you, O God, in preparing a world that welcomes the one who brings us peace.

SILENT AND PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE *responsive*

ONE: The ancient promises of God are fulfilled.

MANY: God does not forget us.

ONE: God's mercy extends from generation to generation.

MANY: God's love never fails!

ALL: Let our souls rejoice in God's grace!

SONG "O Holy Child of Bethlehem"

on screens

SCRIPTURE READING John 1: 1-4, 14

Shelby Malengo

ONE: Word of Wisdom, Word of Grace.

MANY: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Julie Sommers

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PRESENTATION

GOSPEL READING Matthew 18: 1-5

HOMILY "The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven"

Dr. Brett Becker

PRESENTATION OF OUR "WHITE GIFTS" WITH CAROLS

CONGREGATIONS SINGS "Go Tell it on the Mountain," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,"

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," "O Come All Ye Faithful," and "Joy to the World"

As we sing carols, the congregation is invited to process to the manger. Those with "white gifts" of food may leave them there. Please remain seated until the row in front of you has started down the aisle.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Dr. Brett Becker

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

This is an intentional time of expressing our gratitude to God. Whether you have an offering this Sunday or not, take the plate, feel its touch in your hands, give thanks to God and bless all that is given this day.

* **DOXOLOGY**

vs. 4 Hymnal, #22

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING**

* **HYMN OF PRAISE** "Good Christians Friends, Rejoice"

Hymnal, #28

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **BENEDICTION RESPONSIVE** "God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

* **POSTLUDE**

Dr. Christopher Davis

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S SERVICE: Greeters: Nancy and John Doner

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PARTICIPANTS: John Gonzalez, Anna Kirk, Maggie Knauss, Kayla, Megan and Shelby Malengo, Mary Padden-Rubin, Emma Voigt, Lila Woodard



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This week I will pray for:

Prayer requests for the Prayer Chain please email:
Lydia Swanson: lydiaswanson@hotmail.com

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

18 9:30a Worship 10:30a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Alternative Gift Faire 2p -5p Ministerios Llamada Final	19 3p Cerebral Palsy 7p AA Grateful Group	20 7a Men's Fellowship Group 1p Parkinson's	21 6:30p Ministerios Llamada Final 7p Choir 7p AA Success	22 9a Lydia Circle @ Cody's 1p Parkinson's	23 6:30p Ministerios Llamada Final	24 6p Christmas Eve Rectption 7p Worship 8p Ministerios Llamada Final
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUESTS Please stop by our Welcome Table this morning for information about St. Andrew's mission and programs. Please fill out the blue Welcome Card from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate as it comes by today.

THE NOTHING BUNDT CAKE STORE has graciously given us cake to serve at coffee fellowship time.

THE ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIRE TODAY, 10:30A.M. IN MORGAN HALL.

2017 "FREE TO VISION" COMMITMENT PLEDGE CARDS are still being received. Place them in the morning offering plate or mail to the church office.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING will be received on today.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US

DECEMBER 24:

Please note that the reception will be BEFORE the service.

Christmas Eve Reception in Morgan Hall, 6-7p.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary, 7p.m

DECEMBER 25:

Worship Service in the Sanctuary, 9:30a.m.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BRING COOKIES on Christmas Eve for the reception, please deliver them to Morgan Hall before 6p.m.

A BIG THANK YOU to the congregation and Hospitality Team for my retirement party last Sunday, *Margaret*

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY LIGHTHOUSE WILL BE MONDAY, DECEMBER 26.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2017 SANTA BARBARA MISSION CONFERENCE IS NOW OPEN. The conference will take place Friday evening, January 27 and all day Saturday, January 28, at First Presbyterian Church. Register by going online at smissionconference.org or by picking up and completing a brochure in the narthex.

OFFERINGS OF PRAYER

Joys and Concerns from last Sunday's Worship Service

Please note – On Sundays, joys and concerns may be written down on the forms provided in the sanctuary lobby. They will be displayed on the screens during the prayer time. Prayers may also be submitted by email to standrewsprayers@gmail.com by 7:00p.m. each Saturday. Please indicate in your email whether we can share your joys and concerns with the congregation by email and on the church website.

Concerns

<u>From</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Concern</u>
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Joys

<u>From</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Joy</u>
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Ongoing Prayer Requests

Those who have been ill or injured:

Bob Allbright, David Benson, Miller Breese, Ernie & Betty Brooks, Marjorie Boyle, Harold Englund, Brad Naegle, Pam Polan, Carole Wallace

Please let us know of changes we should make in the Prayer List.

Those in convalescent care:

St. John's Hospital, Camarillo: Liz McNeil

Valle Verde Health Center: Bob McWilliams