

Whether you come as a searcher, stranger, faithful member or friend, your presence expands our faith community and enriches the fellowship of this church. We welcome you in friendship and in faith. We care for you in spirit and in deed, through Jesus Christ, the foundation of our faith and our window upon spiritual life.

December 2, 2018 **First Sunday of Advent** **9:45 AM**

*As a courtesy to other worshippers, please turn your cell phones off or to vibrate.
Please do not take or post pictures and videos to media sites without permission first.
Thank you.*

PRELUDE John Douglas and Jeffrey Segal

SHARING OF OUR FELLOWSHIP Stephanie Brown, President

INTROIT *Amazing Grace* The Rejoicers from
Tracy Mauser, Leader Peppermint Ridge

CALL TO WORSHIP Miguel Magaña, Liturgist

One: We are invited this morning to worship the God of second chances, of 180 degree turns, and Hail Marys that sometimes just work.

Many: We don't need to plead, beg or worry. Goddess waits on us too. Let us open the door to what is holy, hopeful, loving and healing.

One: Think of the places you feel disconnected from the divine in life, and hear God calling through Prophets of Promise saying, I AM is here.

Many: The sacred source of life is sitting at our table, like a dear friend, lighting the darkness so we can see honestly where to turn.

One: With this challenge and gift of heart, our first step is praying together.

Prayer: Coming One, we would like to get on with Christmas, the season of joy and light, but we are here in Advent, a place of waiting and wanting and willing. Give us honesty about ourselves and the world. Grant us the gift of renewal and revival that we might be saved. Then make us evangelists of Good News for others who are waiting too. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

ADVENT SONG (please stand if able) *Advent Candle Lighting Song*

Please greet those around you after this song, and then be seated. Thank you.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PROMISE Judy Easter, David Hewgill,
Zion, Isaiah & River

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Mike Holland

Please sign the blue Fellowship Tablet at this time, pass it to the person next to you and return it to the center aisle when everyone has signed. We invite guests to share addresses and phone #s.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Season of Light Grace Simmons
Written and accompanied by Bret Simmons

CHILDREN & YOUTH MOMENT with Pastor Mike

CHURCH SCHOOL Children and youth are excused to Sunday School

Go, our children, with our blessing, God's light to be. Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free. Here the Spirit's power filled you, here with tender comfort stilled you. Go, our children, with our blessing, you are our own.

MORNING PRAYERS

Sharing Joys & Concerns

The Congregation

Cards are available in the pew racks; please fill out and place in offering plate.

Joan Kaul: Kelly & family, Susan & Larry, Dave & family, Tom, Margaret, Lian, Kathy, Jan. Susan Richardson: cousin Becky & Calvin Scott & family. Lorinda Kasten-Lowerre: spouse Jim, sister-in-law Paula, friend Char. Miguel Magaña & Mike Schaefer: friends Josh Walker & Chris Ibarra. Joyce Gillette: self & friend Joyce, Kathleen Hunt. Deb Romero-Holman: Kelly Smith, friend & former Choff member, on hospice in New York. Robbie Arevalos' successful surgery. Debbie Hollister.

Quiet Meditation

Luke 3:2b-3, 7, 10-18

Insert

Pastoral Prayer

Serenity Prayer

God, grant us the Serenity to accept things we cannot change, Courage to change the things we can, and the Wisdom to know the difference, Patience for the things that take time, Appreciation for all that we have, and Tolerance for those with different struggles, Freedom to live beyond the limitations of our past ways, the Ability to feel Your love for us and our love for each other and the Strength to get up and try again even when we feel it is hopeless. Amen.

SONG (remain seated)

Sanctuary

MESSAGE

*Old Camel Hair,
and the Promise of Justice and Hope*

Pastor Mike Holland

HYMN OF COMMUNION (please stand if able) *Come, Share the Bread*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

All worshipers are invited to participate. We partake of the bread as it is passed, then hold the cup so that we may drink as "one" at the direction of the pastor.

Meditation & Prayer Rev. Nancy Brink, Elder

Words of Institution and Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Spirit of All Life, we are grateful you meet us at this table and move among this bread and cup; make us mindful of our oneness with You and all creation, and make every tomorrow possible. Amen.

A TIME FOR GIVING (Online giving is also an option through churchofthefoothills.org)

Offertory John Douglas and Jeffrey Segal

Receiving of Gifts (please stand if able)

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks for the Holy One,
Give thanks because God's given so much love to us. (repeat)
(ending) Give Thanks!**

BENEDICTION

Pastor Mike Holland

CONGREGATIONAL/CHORAL RESPONSE *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom Captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

POSTLUDE

John Douglas and Jeffrey Segal

*Anyone desiring to be a disciple of Christ and member of this church
is encouraged to speak to the minister after the service.*

Be sure to place your food or cash donations for Southwest Community Center in the shopping cart located in the fellowship hall.

You can hear today's service, and download an mp3 file, from our website at:
www.churchofthefoothills.org

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for coffee and refreshments.

Interested in knowing more about "Progressive Christian" faith?
Copies of Dr. Marcus Borg's book, *The Heart of Christianity*, available at the
Welcome Booth (\$10 donation)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR CHURCH HOLIDAY SPECIALS:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9: Our children and youth will be participating in the Sunday morning service and help bring their own holiday magic into the worship service. Everyone is invited to participate and we will be practicing in Sunday School during the month of November.



**WE INVITE YOU ALL TO JOIN US FOR THE
CHURCH OF THE FOOTHILLS
CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND DINNER EVENT**

**“We Need a Little Christmas”
Saturday, December 15
In the sanctuary at 5:00 PM**

A Christmas concert featuring the Chancel Choir singing songs from around the world.

Solos and small ensemble selections presented by members of the Chancel Choir.

**Dinner to follow in the Fellowship Hall
Main course provided -- please bring a dish to pass.
Sign-ups begin today.**



**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
For the Whole Family**

Monday, December 24, 5:30 PM



Lighting the Christmas Candle, Children’s Story, Sacrament of Communion, Sacred Christmas Music by Chancel Choir and Soloists. Closing Candle Circle Outside. Invite friends!



THE FAIR-TRADE CORNER in Fellowship Hall is open TODAY for coffee, tea, chocolate, olive oil and other items.

Proceeds support indigenous producers around the world

In Need of Prayers?

If you would like to request prayers for yourself or others, please contact the church office at churchoffice@chotf.org or 714-544-1319.

Our Philosophy of Worship

Recognizing the diversity of personal preferences, taste and interest in the people who worship here at Church of the Foothills, we are committed to a “blended” approach in our service that includes traditional, classical, contemporary, gospel, folk, modern, and other types of music. We hope the richness of the worship experience will enhance the spiritual life and faith of all who participate. Please address any suggestions, questions or concerns to Pastor Mike, the Elders or the Worship Committee. Thank you for participating in our worship service today.

The Use of Inclusive Language

Our church believes the Holy or Divine Spirit can be experienced as both male and female gender. We use inclusive language such as God, Goddess, Creator, Christ, Logos or Sophia to express the universal nature of this Spirit. Sophia (Greek word for Wisdom) is used for Christ in the New Testament.

Small Group Ministries provide opportunity to share spiritual fellowship, activities, support and mission projects with others. For more information about the following Small Group Ministries, please contact:

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| Bridge Club | Gloria Wildman |
| Chancel Choir | Tina Peterson |
| Christian Women’s Fellowship (CWF) | Lynn Stiegler |
| Family Promise (homeless families with children) | Andy Bartley |
| | Malia Carey |
| Hearts & Minds (compassionate listening) | Suvan Geer |
| Mixed Media (arts, plays, movies) | Kathy Dunlap |
| Monday Night Study Group | Lianne Oakes |
| ONA (LGBTQI) Ministry | Carmen Mercado |
| | Rosadelia Mercado |
| PB&J (Peace, Benevolence & Justice) | Sunny Erickson |
| Sacred Seasons Center & OCICE | Rev. Susan Chamberlain |
| Soup Kitchen (feeding the homeless) | Dan Grisct |

In addition to Small Groups, Church of the Foothills offers a host of Ministry Team opportunities as a way to be involved in church, community and around the world for peace, love and justice. Just complete and turn in the **Passion and Gifts Survey on the table in the Narthex.** Thanks.

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**Church of the Foothills
United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation**

19211 Dodge Avenue, Santa Ana, California 92705, (714) 544-1319, Fax (714) 573-7722
Website: www.churchofthefoothills.org E-mail: churchoffice@chotf.org

WELCOME!

We are glad you are with us this morning. Please use the blue Friendship Booklet from the pew rack:

- To include your name, address and phone number
- To get a message to the minister
- To indicate your interest in church membership

If you are a visitor, please take one of the name badges (located in the Friendship Booklet) write your name on it and wear it so that we may recognize you as our guest, greet you by name and extend to you our hand of friendship. Packets for visitors are available outside the sanctuary at the Information Booth and by the board for name tags. **Telex Sound Enhancement receivers are available in the narthex for the convenience of the hearing impaired.**

Infant & Toddler care is offered in the nursery.

Need someone to talk with about life and faith? For pastoral assistance: Pastor Mike is available during office hours of 9-2, M-T-Th; for other times call 714-423-0182. For an Elder, call the church office at 714-544-1319. Peace to you.

Flowers are brought today by Gloria Wildman.

Elders for the week: Rev. Nancy Brink and Miguel Magaña
 Communion Preparation: Maureen Rosenquist and Maureen Provencher
 AV Technicians: Justin Underwood, Dean Delgado, María Pérez, Anthony Henderson & Krista Owens
 Digital Recording: Justin Underwood

THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES, December 2 -- 8, 2018

Today 12/2	9:45 AM Morning Worship, Communion 10:00 AM Sunday School - Ages Pre-K through Senior High <i>(Nursery available for infants & toddlers)</i> 11:00 AM Fellowship/Coffee time - Fellowship Hall <i>(remember to bring goodies to share during the month of your birthday!)</i> 11:00 AM Alternative Christmas Fair -- FH
Mon. 12/3 Tues. 12/4	7:00 PM PB&J -- Library 4:00 PM Ruby's Night -- Take a red flyer 6:45 PM Christian Education Ministry Mtg. -- Library
Wed. 12/5	SUNDAY BULLETIN AND WEEKLY E-REMINDER ARTICLES DUE 10:00 AM CWF -- Fireside Room 7:00 PM Choir Practice - Sanctuary
Fri. 12/7	3:30 PM Stage Door Show set-up -- FH 7:00 PM Property Ministry Mtg. -- Library
Sat. 12/8	11:00 AM Stage Door Show -- FH 3:30 PM OCTFM Christmas Party -- FH 5:30 PM Mixed Media -- Dunlap's home

Ministry Opportunities

11:00 AM ALTERNATIVE FAIR TODAY IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Great gifts for the holidays and home decor and entertaining: Third World Gifts, Heifer International, Global Ministries, Free Trade Goods, Dennis's Workshop.

SPECIAL NOTE: Stephanie Brown has 1/2 pints of jam made with low sugar pectin from the fruit grown on her orchard in Montana, it goes well with scones, sandwiches, toast, muffins, and you can even make a ham glaze with it! All proceeds donated to the church general fund. Thanks so much!"

LGBTQI OPEN & AFFIRMING (ONA) Ministry BRUNCH CANCELLED for TODAY

'TIS THE SEASON TO ADOPT A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS: Today, December 2, is your opportunity to "adopt" an entire family for Christmas. CHOTF has committed to help 17 local in-need families celebrate Christmas. **Today**, select an entire family to buy gifts and/or groceries for. **Dec. 9 & 16**, select individual names from "Giving Tree." Southwest Community Center has identified all families as qualified recipients.

MONDAY, December 10: LGBTQI OPEN AND AFFIRMING MINISTRY Bible Study, at the home of Lara and Michelle McKinley, **7:00 - 8:15 pm**. If you can, bring a Bible (better than using a phone!). Discussion led by Rev. Nancy Brink, Chapman University.

TIME TO UPDATE CHURCH DIRECTORY of all Members & Friends for 2019.



An email with the current directory was emailed to everyone this past week. Please look over your information and make any needed changes, corrections, and updates, and send to the church office: churchoffice@chotf.org. **Include a picture** of you or your family too and it will be included in the new directory as well!



NOTICE: Fall Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 16 following worship to adopt the 2019 Church Budget to fund all ministries.

2019 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: received \$161,871.25; Giving Goal is \$240,000. *Estimate of Giving Cards* in Narthex. Place in offering plate, or mail to church office.

Southwest Community Center Sends Thanks: PB&J members delivered more than \$1000 worth of groceries and requested paper goods donated by church members, enabling staff and volunteers to prepare and serve Thanksgiving dinner to dozens of homeless and needy Santa Ana residents. Together, we make a difference. Thanks!