

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 22, 2019 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:45 AM

*As a courtesy to other worshipers, 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 Dan Griset, President

INTROIT *Be a Candle of Light* Chancel Choir

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE

The Sweetman family: Heather, Rowan, Colin & Ryan

CALL TO WORSHIP Sunny Erickson, Liturgist

One: Christ's wisdom is to name darkness as darkness and Light as light, and to learn how to live in the light so darkness does not overcome it.

Many: **If we have a pie-in-the-sky, everything-is-beautiful attitude, we will be trapped by darkness because we are not seeing clearly.**

One: If we only see the darkness and forget the foundational Light, then we may be shattered by negativity, despair and fanaticism.

Many: **We must wait and work with hope and love inside the darkness while not doubting the Light that Christ is, and that we are too.**

One: This is the narrow birth canal of the Divine into the world, through the darkness and into an ever-greater Light that we carry with and in us.

Prayer **Loving God, may our love be food for the hungry, rest for the weary, laughter for the brokenhearted, healing for the sick, peace for the conflicted, hope for the anxious, songs for the silent, and miracles for doubters. May we find love wrapped in a blanket, with angelic voices proclaiming: Peace on Earth. Amen**

ADVENT SONG (please stand if able) *Joy to the World* Page 132

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

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.

ANTHEM

Go Tell It!
Arr. Victor C. Johnson

Chancel Choir

CHILDREN & YOUTH MOMENT with Robbie Arevalos, Youth Director

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, God's light to be.

MORNING PRAYERS

Sharing Joys & Concerns

The Congregation

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

Joan Kaul: Judy, Kelly & family, Susan & Larry, Dave & family, Kathy, Palbaum family, Marni & family, Judy L., Aunyx, Juan, Troy, SW, Mickey. Susan Richardson: Calvin Scott, cousin Becky & husband. Carol Wilson: Kyle Gamez. Pastor Kel & Anthony. Kate McCloskey: Sarah Tyler & family. Robbie Arevalos. Elaine Bredenbeck: Paikoff family. Brenda: son Jesse. Jim Guziak. Suvan Geer: McCracken family & brother-in-law James Geer. Bobbie Taylor: Ken Seymour & family. Lorinda Kasten-Lowerre: friend Sandra. Lynn Stiegler: cousin Betty & family, niece Christy's family. Lisa & David Letourneau: friend/co-worker Albert & family. Dale & Arlene Post: friend Joyce Eriksen & Jean Diswirt. Cindy Jayson: granddaughter Bethany Pugsley. James Foster: friend Mike Ross & Mike's girl friend Irean, girlfriend Jessica Hirshowitz.

Pastoral Prayer

Congregational Prayer

Goddess, give us the desire to support all Your children as they grow from babies to children to youth and adulthood. Give us the courage to walk with them, and compassion to listen to them. Help us provide spiritual teachers for them, and the wisdom necessary to allow them to celebrate life in all its wonders. And allow our deep love for children to be made real in their presence. In the name of the child of Bethlehem we pray. Amen.

Quiet Meditation

READING

Luke 2:1-7

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MESSAGE

The Birth of Love

Pastor Mike Holland

HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP (please stand if able) *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Insert
A Contemporary Version by The Rev. Benitez-Rivera

A TIME FOR GIVING (Online giving is also an option through churchofthefoothills.org)
Sharing Our Faith Pamela Galera, Elder
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 RESPONSE *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*
**O come, Desire of nations, bind, all peoples in one heart and mind;
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
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.*

Check the Kiosk outside for more info about our Progressive Christian faith.
Everyone is invited to the Davis Hall after worship for coffee and refreshments.
Please place food or cash donations for those in need in the shopping cart.
Hear today's service from our website at: www.churchofthefoothills.org

Follow US!  @churchofthefoothills  churchofthefoothillssantaana

Church of the Foothills
United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
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Website: www.churchofthefoothills.org E-mail: churchoffice@chotf.org

HELP MAKE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL FOR OTHERS



Church of the Foothills has committed to helping 15 families in Orange County celebrate Christmas (this is in addition to the families assisted through the Family Promise Program).

Wrapped gifts and cards are due TODAY!!

Gifts and cards will be delivered **TODAY**. **Volunteers needed!**

See PB&J table in Fellowship Hall today.

QUESTIONS? Sunny Erickson or Suvan Geer.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE For the Whole Family

Tuesday, December 24, 5:30 PM

Lighting the Christmas Candle, Children's Story, Sacrament of Communion, Sacred Christmas Music. Closing Candle Circle Outside. Invite family-friends!

NEW YEAR'S EVE RELEASE & RENEW BURNING BOWL CEREMONY DECEMBER 31, 2019

5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

The Chapel on the campus of Church of the Foothills

Common Ground and Church of the Foothills present a meaningful hour of thoughtful reflection and focused vision for the future. The evening includes music, inspiration, meditation, and ceremony.

Participants will have an opportunity to privately:

Identify those things that are getting in the way or holding back life; Write a letter of intentions after a time of meditation and opening to divine guidance (each letter will be held in prayer until December 1, 2020, at which time the self-addressed letters will be returned); Release to the flame of the burning bowl a piece of paper with things that need to be released written on it

Please Join Us!

Luke 2:1-7

¹ In those days a decree went out when Augustus was Emperor that everyone should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, as a descendent of the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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.

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.

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:

Bridge Club
Chancel Choir
Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF)
Family Promise (homeless families with children)

Gloria Wildman
Tina Peterson
Lynn Stiegler
Andy Bartley
Malia Cary
Suvan Geer
Kathy Dunlap
Lianne Oakes
Carmen Mercado
Rosadelia Mercado
Sunny Erickson
Suvan Geer
Rev. Susan Chamberlain
Dan Grisct

Hearts & Minds (compassionate listening)
Mixed Media (arts, plays, movies)
Monday Night Study Group
ONA (LGBTQI) Ministry

PB&J (Peace, Benevolence & Justice)

Sacred Seasons Center & OCICE
Soup Kitchen (feeding the homeless)

In addition to Small Groups, Church of the Foothills offers a host of Ministry Teams 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

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 generously given today by Kathy Dunlap.

Greeter: Kelly Swanson
Elders for the week: Sunny Erickson and Pamela Galera
AV Technicians: Justin Underwood, Dean Delgado, María Pérez, Anthony Henderson & Krista Owens
Digital Recording: Justin Underwood

THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES, December 22 -- 28, 2019

FAMILY PROMISE DAILY:

Davis Hall, Kitchen, JR, Fireside Room, Library & Choir Room

Today 12/22	9:45 AM	Morning Worship
	10:00 AM	Sunday School - Ages Pre-K through Senior High (Nursery available for infants & toddlers)
	11:00 AM	Fellowship/Coffee time - Davis Hall
	4:30 PM	Youth Holiday Party – Davis Hall & Kitchen
Mon. 12/23	SUNDAY BULLETIN	AND WEEKLY E-REMINDER ARTICLES DUE
Tues. 12/24	5:30 PM	Christmas Eve Service -- Sanctuary
Wed. 12/25		CHRISTMAS DAY – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Thurs. 12/26	9-11:00 AM	CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
	11:00 AM	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Fri. 12/27	9-11:00 AM	CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
	11:00 AM	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Ministry Opportunities

TODAY:

4:30 PM Youth Holiday Party – Davis Hall & Kitchen

REMINDER: THE FAMILY PROMISE PROGRAM IS WITH US UNTIL Dec 27
in Davis Hall, Kitchen, Jr High Room, Fireside Room, Library & Choir Room

Please respect their privacy

To help prepare a meal, sign up at: <http://shorturl.at/enwQV>



From the Décor Team: Poinsettias were purchased this year from funds left from sale of the pumpkins. They will be available to take home following the Sunday service on Dec. 29. Thanks and Merry Christmas!

TIME TO UPDATE CHURCH DIRECTORY of all Members & Friends for 2020. An email with the current directory was emailed to everyone last week. Please look over your information and make any needed changes, corrections, and updates, and send to the church office: churchoffice@chotf.org or stop by Davis Hall and look over your information and make any needed changes, corrections, and updates.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Our theme for 2020 is ***Building Community, Bettering the World***

Our goal is to raise a minimum of \$225,000 in pledges.

Received to date: **50 pledges, \$147,418**

Please place all completed *Estimate of Giving Cards* in the offering plates, or send to the church office. Cards are also in the narthex.

TWO GLOBAL MINISTRIES MISSION TRIPS PLANNED FOR 2020:

(Scholarships available if needed)

Nicaragua Clean Water Project **Feb 11-19** led by Mike Fronk & David Roger. \$1,800. Deadline to register: Dec. 31. Contact Mike Fronk: mikef@fccpomona.org.

Palestine/Israel Just Peace June 1-12, led by Pastor Mike and Rev. Nancy Fowler, \$3,500. Deadline to register Jan 31. Contact Pastor Mike at drmholland91@gmail.com

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.