

Whether you come as a searcher, visitor, 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.

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December 15, 2019      Third 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 JOY**  
Gary & Annie Haroldson

**CALL TO WORSHIP**      Pamela Galera, Liturgist

One:      Mary said, “*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior who brings down the mighty and exalts those of low estate*”.

Many:      **When Mary sang these words, her people were still oppressed. Still, Mary declared her joy and trust in the promises of God.**

One:      In Bethlehem today, schoolchildren laugh and chatter as they walk blocks out of their way to navigate a wall cutting into their community.

Many:      **Although the Holy Land continues to be occupied today, schools are built including a Christian college in Bethlehem.**

One:      An attitude of Joy in moving forward to a promising future is something we can emulate in our spiritual lives this Advent Season.

Prayer      **We gather, O God, in sacred space mindful of divine presence. We are here to rejoice as we wait to see the glory of Christmas. Help us proclaim the joy of our faith in the loving and just ways of Christ. In our worship, may our lives be blessed through the stories of Christ’s birth and ministry among us. Amen.**

**ADVENT SONG** (please stand)      *Angels We Have Heard on High*      Page 125 vs 1 & 2  
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**

*The Holly & the Ivy*  
Arr. by Russell Robinson

Chancel Choir

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION by Intinction**

*All worshipers are invited to participate. Please come forward down the center aisle, row by row. Break off a piece of bread, or take a gluten-free wafer, and either dip in chalice and eat, or, eat piece of bread or gluten-free wafer, and then take a grape and eat. When finished, please return to your seat by the outside aisle. Those unable to come forward will be served where they are.*

Invitation

Pastor Mike Holland

Prayer

Sunny Erickson, Elder

Words of Institution and Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Jesus, joy of Christmas, rekindle our joy to actions for a better future. Amen**

**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.*

(For a current list of names, see page 1 in white insert)

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord’s Prayer (unknown source)**

**God, lover of us all, Most Holy One, help us to create what You want for us here on Earth. Give us today enough for our needs. Forgive our weak and deliberate offences just as we must forgive others when they hurt us. Help us to resist evil and to do what is good. For we are Yours, endowed with Your power to make the world whole. Amen.**

**Quiet Meditation**

**READING**

Matthew 2:1-6

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**MESSAGE**

*Thriving in the Holidays  
with the Pagan Jesus*

Pastor Mike Holland

**HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP**

(please stand) *I Am the Light of the  
World*

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**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 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.*



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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](http://www.churchofthefoothills.org)

Follow US!  @churchofthefoothills  churchofthefoothillssantaana

**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](http://www.churchofthefoothills.org) E-mail: [churchoffice@chotf.org](mailto: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).

For info and to sign-up, see PB&J table in Fellowship Hall today.

Adopt individuals with gifts and/or donate SCRIP gift cards

**Wrapped gifts and cards are due next Sunday, December 22.**

Gifts and cards will be delivered next Sunday, Dec. 22 also. **Volunteers needed!**

**QUESTIONS?** Sunny Erickson or Suvan Geer.



## SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER A Community Action Partnership of Orange County is having a Christmas Party on Saturday December 21, 2019.

Volunteers are needed: to help wrap gifts in the morning before the festivities; to play games with kids, do arts and crafts, kid friendly food for the children who attend.

Contact Rosa Renteria, Center Director, or Cecilia Viveros, Financial Empowerment Center Coordinator to what capacity you can assist.

Thank you, we appreciate your patience, generosity and continued support.

Southwest Community Center, o: 714-547-4073; c: 714-448-7761



## 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!**



## Looking for a member who can write a UCC grant for us!

Which grants to apply for already chosen, and information about XPLOR program needed for the grants will be provided in writing.

Anyone willing to help, please contact Susan Richardson.

Thank you for your consideration.

## Matthew 2:1-6

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw a star in the east and came to honor the child." <sup>3</sup>Upon hearing this, King Herod was troubled, making everyone in Jerusalem troubled too. <sup>4</sup>Gathering all the chief priests and the legal experts Herod asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, as the prophet wrote: <sup>6</sup>*You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs who will shepherd my people Israel.*"

### In Need of Prayers?

If you would like to request prayers for yourself or others, please contact the church office at [churchoffice@chotf.org](mailto: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.

**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)**

**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)**

**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**

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 graciously given today by Bobbie Taylor.

Greeter:	Kelly Swanson
Elders for the week:	Sunny Erickson and Pamela Galera
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 15 -- 21, 2019

Today 12/15	<b>9:45 AM Morning Worship, Communion</b> <b>10:00 AM Sunday School</b> - Ages Pre-K through Senior High <i>(Nursery available for infants &amp; toddlers)</i> <b>11:00 AM Fellowship/Coffee time</b> - Davis Hall <b>4:30 PM Light of Christmas &amp; Reception</b> – Sanctuary & Davis Hall
Wed. 12/18	<b>SUNDAY BULLETIN AND WEEKLY E-REMINDER ARTICLES DUE</b> <b>10:00 AM CWF</b> – Fireside Room <b>11:00 AM Rodrigo's Fiesta Fundraiser – Take a Flyer</b> <b>7:00 PM Choir Practice</b> - Sanctuary
Fri. 12/20	<b>7:00 PM Bridge Small Group Ministry</b> – Bobbie Taylor's home <b>7:20 PM TG Rainbow</b> -- SR

### 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.

## Ministry Opportunities

**TODAY: 4:30 PM Light of Christmas**, Presented by Chancel Choir – Sanctuary. Fellowship and light refreshments following the program in Davis Hall.



**RODRIGO'S FIESTA FUNDRAISER for Youth, Wed. December 18, 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM ALL DAY! Take a flyer. 14882 Holt Ave. Tustin 714-832-3280.** This fundraiser goes to our Campership Fund, which helps our youth go to camp at Loch Leven (DOC) or Pilgrim Pines (UCC).

**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](mailto: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: 46 pledges, \$138,258**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:drmholland91@gmail.com)

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 Prayers for: Joan Kaul: Judy, Kelly & family, Susan & Larry, Dave & family, Kathy, Palbaum family, Marni & family, Judy L., Aunyx, Juan, Troy, SW. 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. Bobbie Taylor: Ken Seymour & family. Lorinda Kasten-Lowerre: friend Sandra, those grieving. Lynn Stiegler: cousin Betty & family, niece Christy's family. Miguel Magaña: healing and peace. Kevin Brewer: high school friends Peg & Cliff. Pat Hofferbert: friend Buhl Palmer. Jennifer Surges: dear friend Justin Ames. Tippy Sheppard: friend Bill Pool. Bruce Borden: our elected officials for the facing of these days.