



The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

*Christmas Eve
A Service of Lessons and Carols*

December 24, 2023

7:30 pm

PIANO PRELUDE

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

arr. Lloyd Larson

INTROIT

Joy to the World (please refer to insert)

Praise Team

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which has come to all people, for to you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord!

Unto us a Child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

And the government shall be upon his shoulders.

His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

*OPENING CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful
verses 1, 2, 3 & 6

No. 234

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

ANTHEM

Love Came Gently

Marty Funderbork

INVOCATION

O God,

We come tonight to Bethlehem, in quietness and peace. We kneel at the manger to behold the miracle. The glory of Your Love is revealed in the Christ Child.

With awe and reverence we worship. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let your love be born in us anew. Amen.

Luke 1:26-33

CAROL *(remain seated)*

Luke 2:1-7

PIANO SOLO

Luke 2:8-14

CAROL

Luke 2:15-20

CAROL

Matthew 2:1-12

CAROL

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

SOLO

HOMILY

*CAROL

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Offertory

THE ANGEL GABRIEL VISITS MARY

O Little Town of Bethlehem (please refer to insert) No. 230

THE BIRTH/MARY'S SONG

Ave Maria

Franz Schubert

THE ANGEL'S SONG

Angels We Have Heard on High

Praise Team

THE SHEPHERD'S RESPONSE

Shepherd's Rock (please refer to insert)

Praise Team

THE WISEMEN'S RESPONSE

We Three Kings verse 1

No. 254

OUR RESPONSE

This Holy Night

Mary McDonald

"O MORNING STARS TOGETHER"

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

No. 240

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

Breath of Heaven

Grant/Eaton arr. Cindy Berry

CHRISTMAS EVE DOXOLOGY (choir and congregation)

verse 4

No. 221

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

CANDLELIGHTING

For safety, as we light candles, please hold the lit candle completely upright and let your neighbor tilt the unlit candle to receive the flame from your light. The pianist will play while the candles are being lit. We will not begin singing *Silent Night* until all the candles are lit. When the piano and choir begin *Silent Night*, please begin singing.

CAROL (remain seated)

Silent Night Holy Night

(please refer to insert for words)

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ring the Bells

Harry Bollback

PARTICIPATING IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE

Music Director, Julia Burns

Members of Chancel Choir

Praise Team Director, Mike Clark

Praise Team, Ian Beard, Connie Clark,

Mike Clark, Dennis Eiler, Pam Garza

Pianist, Dennis Eiler

Organist, Brad Bettencourt

Cellist, Rosslyn Clauson

Soloists, Julia Burns (vocal),

Dennis Eiler (piano)

Pastor, Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

Liturgists, David Beard, Valerie Beard

Christ Candle, Carolyn Russell

(Children's Director)

Ushers, Dave Bolterman, Dorine Bolterman,

Harry Egan, Judie Neufeld

Sound Technician, Lee Fonseca



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