



The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

*Christmas Eve*  
*A Service of Lessons and Carols*

December 24, 2024

7:00 pm

PRELUDE *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day/Carol of the Bells* M. Leontovich/Calvin

INTROIT *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.* 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* No. 234  
verses 1, 3 & 6

CHRISTMAS EVE WELCOME

SOLO *Do You Have Room* Shawna Edwards

INVOCATION

***O God,  
We come tonight to Bethlehem, in quietness and peace.  
We kneel at the manger to behold the miracle,  
as 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.***

SOLO *Cry in the Dark* Stone/Dutherland

THE ANGEL GABRIEL VISITS MARY

Luke 1:26-33  
Carol (*remain seated*)

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
verses 1, 3 & 4

No. 230

THE BIRTH/MARY'S SONG

Luke 2:1-7  
SOLO  
Lighting the Christ Candle

*Ave Maria*

Franz Schubert

THE ANGEL'S SONG

Luke 2:8-14  
CAROL (*remain seated*)

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Praise Team

THE SHEPHERD'S RESPONSE

Luke 2:15-20  
CAROL (*remain seated*)

*Shepherd's Rock*

Praise Team

THE WISEMEN'S RESPONSE

Matthew 2:1-12  
CAROL (*remain seated*)

*The First Noel*  
verses 3, 4 & 5

No. 245

OUR RESPONSE

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

by Robert Louis Stevenson

SOLO

*O Holy Night*

John Sullivan Dwight

HOMILY

SPECIAL DELIVERY:  
Love is Born

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

\*CAROL

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

No. 240

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Offertory

*Birthday of a King*

Neidlinger/Murray

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.

|                               |                                   |                                    |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CHORAL ANTHEM                 | <i>Night of the Father's Love</i> | Pepper Choplin                     |
| CAROL (remain seated)         | <i>Silent Night Holy Night</i>    | (please refer to insert for words) |
| *THE BENEDICTION              |                                   |                                    |
| *CLOSING CAROL (please stand) | <i>Joy to the World</i>           | (please refer to insert for words) |
| POSTLUDE                      | <i>Today in Bethlehem</i>         | Rick Parks                         |

#### PARTICIPATING IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE

Music Director - Julia Burns  
Chancel Choir Members  
Pianist - Dennis Eiler

Organist - Brad Bettencourt  
Praise Team Director, Mike Clark  
Praise Team - Connie Clark, Pam Garza,  
Bob Jorstad, Ian Beard, Chloe Keith

Soloists - David Anderson, Julia Burns,  
Chloe Keith

Liturgist - Carolyn Anderson  
Pastor - Rev. Mary Birgelaitis  
Children's Director - Carolyn Russell  
Ushers - Dorine Bolterman, Dave Bolterman  
Sound Technician - Mike Coho

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