



December 22, 2024
10:00 AM
2700 L Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

PIONEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome! We're very glad you've come to this service today and we pray our experience of worship here will renew and inspire you. If you are not familiar with our practices of worship, the following information may be helpful to you:

- 1. We are an Open and Affirming congregation. We welcome into full membership, leadership, and participation in our church all persons and their families, of every race, language, age, gender, gender identification and expression, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, economic status, and personal opinion.*
- 2. A cross "+" before a heading denotes standing if you are able:*
- 3. **Bold** print indicates that the congregation reads or sings aloud, in unison;*
- 4. An (*) indicates the selected hymn is a favorite hymn of the congregation.*
- 5. Please silence your cell phone ringers;*
- 6. If you have a prayer concern, you may fill out the prayer request form located in the back pews and the ushers will collect them later in the service.*
- 7. If you are a guest with us, we invite you to fill out the Connection Card located with your Welcome Packet and place it in the offering plate in lieu of an offering. We have a special gift for you.*
- 8. You are invited to join us for an informal time of coffee, food, and fellowship during our Fellowship Hour after the service.*
- 9. We have a Pioneer Guest wifi signal throughout the church. Our wifi password is **welcome2700**. One way to promote our church is to let your friends on your social media know you're in church right now.*

If you have any questions about life in the Pioneer Church or have needs of a personal nature, please speak to the pastor. We are happy to do what we can to help.

**“No matter who you are or where you are in life’s journey,
you are welcome here!”**

Prelude

Prière à Notre Dame (from Suite Gothique)

Léon Boëllmann

The Light of Christ Enters

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Call

You Are Welcome Here

Gerard DeMan

$\text{♩} = 100$

G D G A D G/D D G A

You are wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,

G A D G D C G A

no mat-ter where you are, on life'sjour - ney... You are

D G/D D G A G A

wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are, come and

D G D G/D A D

join with us, we're u - ni-ted in the church of Christ.

Welcoming One Another (*said in unison*)**Psalm 118:24**

Let us begin our worship service today by saying aloud our Opening Scripture:

“This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

+ The Passing of the Peace**+ Call to Worship** (*read responsively*)

One: The grace of Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Love deeply, creating the wells of kinship,

For in the Body of Christ we belong.

Love boldly, like the spirited colors of a rainbow,

For in the Body of Christ we find peace.

Love joyfully, like the blissful songs in the wind,

For in the Body of Christ we claim our connections.

(+) denotes standing, if you are able.

+ Opening Hymn

Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,

As you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light:
 Seek the great De - sire of Na - tions, guid - ed by Christ's na - tal star:
 Sud - den - ly, your prayers at - tend - ing, Christ be - side you shall ap - pear.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, give thanks and sing.

LIGHTING OF THE LOVE CANDLE

When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day.” (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, “But you, O [fill in name of church or community], from you shall come forth for me...” What? What might God be calling forth from us?

God invites us to receive the promise of God’s salvation and the sustenance of God’s mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too do we answer God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God’s promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God’s love for all creation.

The Love Candle is lit.

+ Opening Prayer (Pastor Led)

Holy Tapestry of Bliss, the patches of memories are stitched together as we tell our stories with you, Loving God. We cherish the individual pieces of our diverse stories, and the beauty of narratives sewed together. We honor the ways these Holy Threads have connected us. May the creation from our connections be like a quilt to our souls, keeping us warm in this season of reflection. God be with us. Amen.

Introit

There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

Henry Hugh Bancroft

Introduction to the Old Testament Lesson

Hannah, the mother of Samuel, prays a prayer of praise, not unlike Mary's song in our Gospel lesson.

Old Testament Lesson

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Then Hannah prayed: "My heart rejoices in the Lord! The Lord has made me strong. Now I have an answer for my enemies; I rejoice because you rescued me.² No one is holy like the Lord! There is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.³ "Stop acting so proud and haughty! Don't speak with such arrogance! For the Lord is a God who knows what you have done; he will judge your actions.⁴ The bow of the mighty is now broken, and those who stumbled are now strong.⁵ Those who were well fed are now starving, and those who were starving are now full. The childless woman now has seven children, and the woman with many children wastes away.⁶ The Lord gives both death and life; he brings some down to the grave^l but raises others up.⁷ The Lord makes some poor and others rich; he brings some down and lifts others up.⁸ He lifts the poor from the dust and the needy from the garbage dump He sets them among princes, placing them in seats of honor. For all the earth is the Lord's, and he has set the world in order.⁹ "He will protect his faithful ones, but the wicked will disappear in darkness. No one will succeed by strength alone.¹⁰ Those who fight against the Lord will be shattered. He thunders against them from heaven; the Lord judges throughout the earth. He gives power to his king; he increases the strength of his anointed one."

Introduction to the Gospel Lesson

Mary visits Elizabeth and the Holy Spirit is upon them both. Elizabeth proclaims the joy of Mary's pregnancy and Mary responds with a song.

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:39-55

A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town ⁴⁰ where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. ⁴³ Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? ⁴⁴ When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. ⁴⁵ You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said." ⁴⁶ Mary responded, "Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. ⁴⁷ How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! ⁴⁸ For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. ⁴⁹ For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me. ⁵⁰ He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him. ⁵¹ His mighty arm has done tremendous things! He has scattered the proud and haughty ones. ⁵² He has brought down princes from their thrones and exalted the humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel and remembered to be merciful. ⁵⁵ For he made this promise to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children forever."

This is the Word of the Lord. Let us respond by singing together our Scripture refrain.

Scripture Refrain *Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet* (sung twice)

Unison

Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

Sermon: "Moving with Mary's Song"

+ Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

As we sing this hymn, the ushers will collect your prayer cards to be prayed for during the Prayers of the People.

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see you lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove your deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the glo - rious love of heaven.
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in your dark streets shines forth the ev - er - last - ing light,
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No one dis - cerns God's com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you to - night.
 And prais - es sing, and voic - es ring with peace to all on earth.
 Where yearn - ing souls long to be whole, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*said in unison;" sins;" or any version you choose to say*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sung Response

Great Amen

Carl MaultsBy

The musical notation consists of two staves in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains three measures of music, each with the lyrics "A - men." underneath. The second measure of the first staff is marked with a slur and the text "Great Amen" above it. The second staff contains four measures of music, each with the lyrics "A - men." underneath. The final measure of the second staff has a fermata over the final note.

Introduction to the Offering

We reconnect in this space and time to seek God's call for our lives and our congregation. As part of our spiritual journeys, we share our treasures, time, and talents, bringing God's light into our world. We do not give to impress God or share offerings because of our shame. Instead, we bring our offerings to celebrate the Body of Christ. The Ushers will now come forward to receive your pledges and offerings. We invite you to give in person, on our website, or mail in your offering today. Thank you.

Offertory Anthem

Magnificat in B-flat

C.V. Stanford

+ The Doxology (*sung in unison*)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication (*said in unison*)

God of All Joy, Holy Hope, we delight in living in your ways as we create your Realm here on earth. These offerings of talents, treasures, and time are not to appease you but to collaborate with you. As co-creators, we seek your intentions and celebrate your love for us and our neighbors. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

+ Closing Hymn*Come, O Long-Expected Jesus*

STUTT GART

1 Come, O long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set all peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;
 3 Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born 'a child, you came to reign!
 4 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us as your own;

From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.
 Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long - ing heart.
 Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.
 By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your cross and crown.

+ Commissioning Song (*sung in unison*)

SERVANT SONG

(Please face one another as you sing.)

We are pil - grims on a jour - ney. We are trav - 'lers on the road
 5
 We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load

+ Benediction

As we seek the ways of God and our Creator's intentions for our lives,
 May the Spirit of God enliven us as we love boldly,
 May the Spirit of God strengthen us as we create paths of peace.
 May the Spirit of God awaken us as we love generously and widely.
 A season of birth is imminent, for God's love is with us as we seek our renewal of
 life. Go in peace. Amen.

Postlude*Magnificat Fugue No. 13*

Johann Pachelbel



Volunteers for today are: Reader: Garylee Stephenson **Usher:** TBA **Acolyte:** Randy Triezenberg **Tellers:** TBA **Fellowship:** John Busschaert & Xuan Guerrero **Flowers:** Christmas Poinsettias

Volunteers for next Tuesday Dec 24th are: Reader: Garylee Stephenson **Usher:** TBA **Acolyte:** Randy Triezenberg **Tellers:** TBA **Fellowship:** TBA **Flowers:** Christmas Poinsettias

ANNOUNCEMENTS**+ Thank You**

I would like to thank each & every one of you who participated in the "Giving Tree" event. You really came through with so many extraordinary gifts that will bring big smiles to all of these homeless young people when they open their gifts on Christmas.

I also would like to extend a special thanks to Ellen Ogle for making all of the beautiful gifts tags & the sign in sheet, to Vi McNally & Kelton Jackson for the challenging job of bringing the Christmas tree up from the basement, to Linda & Randy Ralston & Karen Shipman for helping put up & decorate the Christmas tree along with Pinki Cockrell-Stevenson for supplying more decorations & all of the Christmas gift bags & Pastor Bo for continually making announcements during our Sunday services & in his Weekly newsletters to encourage people to be an important part of this gratifying event. This project would not have been a success without everyone's tremendous help. Thank you all again, Pat Houge

+ Giving Tree Gifts



Pat and Xochitl, a representative from Loaves and Fishes, show the many gifts received for the Mustard Seed program that gave Christmas gifts to homeless children here in Sacramento.



All the gifts received this year for Loaves and Fishes' children.

+ Bible Study

There will be no Bible study for the next two weeks as we, celebrate Christmas and New Years! Join us on January 8th for a lively discussion of the Hard Sayings of Jesus, based on the book of the same name by F.F. Bruce at 6:30PM in person or on Zoom. Contact the pastor for the Zoom link.



Poinsettia Donations

*Merry Christmas
From Yvette Cuny & Family*

*In Honor of Gabby Triezenberg
From Randy Triezenberg*

*In Honor of Tom McNally
From Vi McNally*

*In Honor of John Shipman
In Memory of Marge Williams
From Karen shipman*

*In Memory of Dorothy Bohn
From Scott Minor*

*In honor of Our Grandchildren
In Memory of Elrita & Al Arden
From Ellen Arden- Ogle*



*In Memory of Jan Halldorson
Jiggs and Phyllis Halldorson
From Siggie Halldorson*

*Merry Christmas
Elliot Jones & Mark Benko*

*In Memory of Albert & Lillie Balog
From Andy Balog*

*In Memory of Bud & Jeannine Zahradnicek
From Andy Balog*

*In Memory of Mike Apperson
From Andy Balog*

*In Memory of Louisa Bowen
Lem & Elizabeth Bowen
From Sue Bryant-Still*

*In Honor of Thom & Charlotte and Sara
From Katrina Copple*

*In loving Memory of Mildred Houge & Etta Watson
From Pat Houge & Marge Watson*

*In loving Memory of Betsy's Grandparents Jim & Bess Williams
From Betsy Louis & William Ruygt*

*In Memory of Jiggs and Phyllis Halldorson
Bob Hosmann & Marlene Rose
Bud & Madeline Rose
From Mel & Mary Kay Rose*




ADVENT

SCHEDULE

- **SUNDAY WORSHIP** SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 AT 10:00 AM
- **CHANTEUSES CONCERT** SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 AT 7:30 PM
- **SUNDAY WORSHIP** SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 AT 10:00 AM
- **SUNDAY WORSHIP** SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 10:00 AM
- **CAPITAL CHORALE LESSONS & CAROLS CONCERT** FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 AT 7:00 PM
- **SUNDAY WORSHIP** SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 AT 10:00 AM
- **CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT 5:00 PM
- **SUNDAY WORSHIP & CAROL SING** SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 AT 10:00 AM

PIONEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2700 L STREET, MIDTOWN SACRAMENTO, CA

WWW.PIONEERUCC.ORG



Pioneer Congregational Church

Presents


Christmas Eve

Carol & Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00 PM

2700 L Street, Midtown Sacramento, CA

www.pioneerucc.org



CHURCH CALENDAR – 2024

Sunday, December 22 nd	Morning Service	10:00am
Tuesday, December 24 th	Christmas Eve Service	5:00pm

Merry Christmas

The Office will be Closed on December 25th & 26th

Sunday, December 29 th	Morning Service	10:00am
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What's Happening this Week

- + [Download our latest eNewsletter](#), The Weekly, for Tuesday 24th, December, 2024.
- + **No-Bible Study** will meet on Wednesday, December 25th, at 6:30 PM
- + No **Facebook Church** meet on Wednesday, December 25th, at 12:00 Noon

Any changes/updates to future events please make notation on this Bulletin and place it in Kelton's box in the main office.

Many other activities take place in the building regularly.

Please check the calendar in the church office regarding space and time availability before scheduling any event.

Pioneer

**CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



www.pioneerucc.org + (916) 443-3727 + connect@pioneerucc.org
2700 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here!"

CONNECTING. SHARING. SERVING!

Pastor: Rev. Dr. David "Bo" Bock

Music Director: Dr. Elliot Jones

Church Administrator: Rev. Kelton Jackson

PPRC – Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Website:

Pastorbo@pioneerucc.org

MusicDirector@pioneerucc.org

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Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

For an appointment outside of these hours please call 916-443-3727 the church office.

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