

SAN DIEGO
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts ~ Open Minds ~ Open Doors

December 25, 2011

10:00 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christmas Day

And is it true, This most tremendous tale of all, Seen in a stained-glass window's hue, A Baby in an ox's stall ? The Maker of the stars and sea Become a Child on earth for me ?	And is it true ? For if it is, No loving fingers tying strings Around those tissued fripperies, The sweet and silly Christmas things, Bath salts and inexpensive scent And hideous tie so kindly meant,
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No love that in a family dwells,
No caroling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

John Betjeman "Christmas"

Entrance

Prelude —Janice Stewart, organist

Introit — "Gloria in Excelsis Deo!"arr. Edward Barnes

*Processional Hymn No. 238— "Angels We Have Heard on High"

*Greeting—Reverend Myron Wingfield

For the gift we knew not how to ask, we give you thanks.

For the birth we knew not how to receive, we shout for joy.

For the Lord we did not always know how to follow, we give thanks.

For the light that shines in the darkness, we say "Yes."

For the joy, the light, the birth, the Gift, thanks be to God. Amen

*Hymn Response No. 237 — "Sing We Now of Christmas" (verse 1)

♪ Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!

Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear. ♪

♪ Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel! ♪

(Latecomers may be seated)

Call to Prayer

“When the song of the angels is stilled. When the star in the sky is gone. When the kings and the shepherds have found their home, the work of Christmas is begun.”

Let us pray;

Prayer of the People

Loving God, you have come to us, not with great signs and wonders, but in a babe who became a humble carpenter.

You took on human form, not with the trappings of power and might, but among people who fasted, prayed and gave thanks in the midst of their poverty.

You revealed yourself, not with devices of coercion and might but through an instrument of suffering and service

For your foolishness is wiser than human thought and your weakness is stronger than all human power.

Grant that we may hear and be transformed by your wisdom and follow the example set forth in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

By the birth of Jesus Christ, God has given Godself to the world.

Being born in our hearts, may he save us from our sins and restore us to the image and likeness of a Creator.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Hymn No. 224— “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

The First Reading — Luke 2:1-20 “The Story of Christmas”The Reverend Martha Wingfield
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amen

Children's Moment

At this time all children are invited to the front of the church to hear a brief message.

The children will be excused afterwards to attend their Sunday School classes.

Greetings and Announcements

*Please register your attendance by clearly printing your **first and last** name in the attendance pad found in each pew, passing the pad to the end of the pew, and then back to the center aisle.*

Proclamation of the Word

Anthem — “The Holly and The Ivy”Carol, arr. Randol Bass

The holly and the ivy when they are both full grown,
Of all the trees in the wood, the holly bears a crown.

The holly has a berry as red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn.

The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to redeem us all.

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,
Of all the trees in the wood, the holly bears a crown.
The rising of the sun, the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The Second Reading— John 1:1-14 (Pew Bible page 922).....Mike King

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Hymn of Preparation No. 242— “Love Came Down at Christmas”

The Sermon — “The Gift of Our Heart’s Desire”The Reverend Martha Wingfield

*Hymn No. 229 — “ Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Response to the Word

*Affirmation of Faith –The Christmas Creed

**I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the gospel,
which began in Bethlehem.**

**I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming
the shepherds saw the sign, and for whom there was no room in the inn.**

**I believe in the one to whom the poor, the oppressed, the sick and the blind
gave welcome, and accepted as Lord and Savior.**

I believe in the one who, with love, changed the heart of the proud.

**I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can
change if with humility and faith, we kneel before the manger.**

I believe that I must be the first one to do so.

Choral Call to Prayer, Pastoral Prayer, Lord's Prayer

*Greeting — Offering Signs of Peace & Reconciliation

The Offering

Offertory — “Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow”Karl Osterlander

*Doxology No. 94

♪ **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! . ♪

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, make us fit vessels for your indwelling spirit.
As through Christ, you sought to reconcile all things,
so make us instruments of your reconciliation.
As by Christ, you worked to establish peace,
so make us agents of your peacemaking.
We dedicate these offerings to your work in this world.
Make us instruments of your peace. Amen.

*Hymn of Consecration No. 251— “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Sending Forth

*The Light of Christ Leads Us Out Into the World

*The Benediction

Choral Benediction — “Noel, Noel”Traditional English Carol

*The Postlude — “Good Christian Men, Rejoice”Norman del Joio

**Indicates that you are invited to stand.*

TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

GUEST MINISTER: Reverend Myron Wingfield, San Diego District Superintendent

GREETERS: Billie Taylor

USHERS: Paul & Chryse Carter, Richard & Linda Sterrett

RECEPTIONIST: Sandy Hayes