



Holy Night Quietude - December 24

Drop by the church anytime between 7:30 - 9:00 pm for some quiet reflection in the candlelit sanctuary. Receive communion whenever you're ready. Stay as briefly, or as long, as you like, as you open yourself to God's loving presence on this most Holy Night. Family members and friends are always welcome, too.



The Celebration of Worship

December 19, 2021 • 4th Sunday of Advent

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Titus Toyama
Pianist:	Janet Hill
Japanese Reader:	Miyo Uchida
Advent Candle Lighting:	Jana Nakase-Lee, Steve Lee

Prelude Janet Hill

*Introit

All: Make us one, Lord, make us one. Holy Spirit make us one. Let Your love flow so the world will know, we are one in You.

Welcome/Announcements Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Advent Candle Lighting Jana Nakase-Lee & Steve Lee

Today the candles on the Advent wreath symbolize the powerful presence of God with us in Jesus Christ.

We light these candles as a symbol of love. The bright light from the four candles reminds us of the great light that surrounded the shepherds who were out in the fields watching their flocks at night when the angels came and told them that Jesus was being born.

An angel choir sang, "Glory to God in the highest!" as they announced the good news of Jesus' birth. Lord Jesus, may the celebration of your birth at Christmas bring love to every heart. May our lives bring God glory as we share the Good News of our Savior's birth with all the world. Let's pray:

All: O God, your plan for the world needed the love of a mother. May we, like Mary, open our lives to be messengers of your love to the world. Amen.

** Those who can, please rise*

Call to Worship

Titus Toyama

Leader: Who are we, Lord God, that You should come to us?

People: Yet You have visited Your people and redeemed us in Your Son.

Leader: Nothing will be impossible with God, but when and where we least expect it, we will look among the straw and the stars:

All: The Messiah is coming. We look for Him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Opening Hymn: “O Come All Ye Faithful” (#41)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;

O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exaltation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Invitation to Confession

Titus Toyama

Leader: Here, during this holy season, we hear promises made so long ago. Of the One who repairs all our mistakes, of the One who shapes our brokenness. If we are to welcome the Child into our hearts, we must speak of all the ways we have hardened ourselves against the good news He brings. Let's confess our sins as we pray together.

*Sending Hymn: “Silent Night, Holy Night” (#60)

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming
grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

*Response: “Shalom”

Sha rom, sha rom, mata a u hi ma de. Sha rom, sha rom, Kami no mi megumi.

(Peace, peace, until we meet again. Peace, peace, may we be blessed with grace from God.)

Sha rom, sha rom, mata a u hi ma de. Sha rom, sha rom, yuta kani, yuta kani, yuta kani.

(Peace, peace, until we meet again. Peace, peace, abundantly, abundantly, abundantly.)

In Appreciation:

Greeters:

Betsy Eskridge, Miyo Uchida

Online Greeter:

May Lee

Usher:

Julie Chew

Parking:

Phillip Chew

Sound System:

Cathy Nishizaki

Zoom Moderator:

Nancy Arata-Fong

Musical Offering Janet Hill

Time for silent reflection

Opportunity To Present Offerings Titus Toyama

***Doxology** Titus Toyama

All: 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** Titus Toyama

Joys & Concerns Titus Toyama

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Parent Who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer of Confession Titus Toyama

Leader: Great God of Presence and Promised Coming, You understand the rejection and failed relationships we have known. We confess that we have not loved You, or others, with our whole heart.

People: We have not followed Jesus Christ with all our heart and mind and strength. Forgive us.

Leader: Forgive us for wasting the time and resources You have given us. Have mercy on us when we lose hope and wear despair like a favorite sweater.

All: Make us messengers of the peace You bring. Help us to work for the justice You intend. As we wait for You, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. Amen.

People: Jesus became poor to serve the world, forgive us for our obsession with wealth and possessions.

Leader: Loving God, in this holy season, let neither busyness or selfishness overwhelm us. Cleanse us, and touch us with Your steadfast love;

All: Strengthen us, and pour out Your faithfulness on us. May our cleansed hearts welcome and adore You as we reflect Your light and love to those around us. Amen.

Time for silent reflection and confession

Assurance of God's Grace Titus Toyama

Leader: All glory to our great God, for the gift of God's Son, whom God sent to save us.

People: With singing angels, we praise Jesus' name, and tell the earth his story, that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down, as we are all transformed by God's love and peace;

All: In Jesus Christ, God's love come down at Christmas, we are forgiven. Amen.

***Response to God's Forgiveness**

All: Glory be to Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

Passing of the Peace Titus Toyama

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Children's Message

Miyo Uchida

Children's Song

“Angels we have heard on high” (#23)

Choir Hymn

“A Celebration of Carols”

Arr. by Patrick M. Liebergen

*Reflection Hymn: “Once in Royal David's City” (#49)

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall.
With the poor, oppressed, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**Jesus is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness, and He shares in all our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming
love,
For that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.**

Unison Prayer Of Guidance

Titus Toyama

**All: Now may the words of our mouth, the meditation of our hearts,
the interpretation of our minds, and the response of our hands be
acceptable to You, our Lord and our Redeemer. In Christ's name
we pray. Amen.**

Japanese Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-15, 17

Miyo Uchida

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

1st Scripture Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

Titus Toyama

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Sermon and 2nd Scripture Reading

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

“All I Want for Christmas Is ... Love”

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.