

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

***Hymn of Commissioning**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

No. 136

***Benediction**

Postlude

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Special Thanks Today:

Lay Leader: Karen Pirkle

Usher: Ginger Stapley

Ginger Stapley – Clerk of Session

Cindy Hurst – Treasurer

Class of 2024

Stacy Kenyon – Faith Formation

Owen Harris – Mission

John Chvatal - Worship

Melissa Broussard - Personnel

Darron Harris – CRT*

*CRT – Congregational Resources Team

Class of 2025

Gail Hamilton -Mission

Mike Thorpe – Worship

Jim Anderson – Nominating

Whitney Duncan – Preschool

Bill Morrow – CRT*

Joanne Folger – Faith Formation

Class of 2026

Barbara Etheridge - Worship

Corey Duncan – Faith Formation

Dave Lux – CRT*



December 8, 2024

**Sunday Order of Worship
11:00 am**

**We are a community of believers, sharing God’s love, in worship
and service, as disciples of Jesus Christ.**

Staff Members

Rev. Dr. Russ Weekley, Pastor

Marlucia Damaceno Crispim

Commissioned Lay Pastor, El Buen Pastor Fellowship

Eric Etheridge, Director of Music Ministry

Susan Hatcher, Bookkeeper

Victor Holton, Accompanist

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The marks of this life are:

Pray daily;

Worship weekly;

Enjoy spiritual friendships;

Read and study the Scriptures;

Engage in service in and beyond the church;

Share the Good News of the Gospel with others, and

Practice generosity with one’s time, talent, and money.

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* Those who are able, please stand. **Bold** is to be read in unison.

Prayer of Preparation

O God, we joyously come together to worship, realizing we need not summon You into our midst, for You are here. We need not call You into the secret places of our hearts, for You are there. We need our eyes of faith to be opened, that we may see You; our ears to be unstopped, that we may hear You; our minds to be sensitive, that we may know You; our hearts to be tender, that we may receive You. Grant each one a blessing, O Lord, as each has need, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Welcoming and Announcements

Everyone is asked to sign the Friendship Folder in the pew rack. **Visitors:** Please completely fill out your name, mailing address, and e-mail address to enable us to extend our Christian hospitality. Please pass the folder to your neighbor, and then return it to the center aisle with the cover open so that you may learn the names of the other worshipers. **For sight impaired worshipers:** Large Print Hymnals are available from the ushers. **For hearing impaired worshipers:** We recommend downloading the Listen Everywhere app.

Minute for Mission

International Student Christmas

Roxanne Lau

*Greeting One Another in Love

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

Prelude

Victor Holton

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Owen and Charlotte Harris

Leader: For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor,

People: Mighty God,

Leader: We light these candles as a sign of our waiting and hope for the coming Christ.

(based on Isaiah 9:6)

*Hymn of Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High

No. 113

*Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O promised Christ: We are a world at war. Our peace depends on Your coming. We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on Your coming. We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing God's will is that You should come and help us do it. Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for Your peace, for Your pardon, and for Your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Assurance of God's Grace (Responsive)

Leader: The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life. Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.

People: Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination

First Scripture Lesson

Malachi 3:1-4

Pew Bible page 676

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:68-79

Pew Bible page 724

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Sermon

Foretold

Rev. Weekley

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Hymn of the Day

Take My Life

No. 697

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who is in heaven, Hallowed be 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

The Offering

Offertory

*Doxology No. 606

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.