MISSION HILLS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
An Open and Affirming Congregation

4070 Jackdaw Street
San Diego, California 92103
www.missionhillsucc.org
info@missionhillsucc.org
(619) 296-2169

December 18, 2022 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ 10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE “Carol of the Bells for Pipe Organ” - arr. by Paul Fey

THE BELL – SILENCE

POEM “Mary’s Song”

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE

One: Last week we asked everyone to provide an answer to this question:
What makes you feel loved? What makes you feel connected? Here is what you said.
Read answers…

One: Whenever it feels like there is no hope, when our world feels empty of peace,
when my joy feels shallow, love comes running just in time. We light these candles
to remind ourselves that God always has good news! To us and through us.

Many: From generation to generation, tell each other, “You are loved!”

*SONG “Love Shall Come”

1. Love shall come: a light in the darkness!
3. Love shall come and never will leave us!

Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all
Love is life everlasting and free. Love is

heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of
Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our

joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a
hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.
Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text by Ken Bible | Tune “BRING A TORCH” French Melody | Text: © 1996, LNWHymns
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THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT
    All: We promise our love, support, and care.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
    We believe in God, Creator of all the worlds, parent of Jesus Christ,
    source of the Spirit, in whom we live and move and have our being.
    We believe in Jesus Christ, God’s Word made flesh, child of Mary,
    who lived on earth, challenging the mighty, loving the outcast,
    befriendings all people and dying on a cross, rising to share divine love forever.
    We believe in the Holy Spirit, Breath of Life, power of healing and wholeness,
    who leads all people to the truth of love, bestowing upon everyone
    gifts to love and serve one another.
    In God, we affirm our faith, with the church of all times and places.

RESPONSE
    “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

    Infant holy, infant lowly,
    for his bed a cattle stall;
    oxen lowing, little knowing
    Christ the babe is Lord of all.
    Swiftly winging angels singing,
    bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
    Christ the child is Lord of all!
    Christ the child is Lord of all!

    Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
    vigil till the morning new
    saw the glory, heard the story,
    tidings of a gospel true.
    Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
    praises voicing, greet the morrow:
    Christ the child was born for you!
    Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish Carol, trans. Edith M. G. Reed
Tune “W ZLOBIE LEZY” Polish melody

CHRISTMAS CAROL CHOIR

COMMUNITY BUILDING – Announcements

QUESTION FOR CHRISTMAS EVE “My Story is…”

OUR OFFERING OF GRATITUDE give here

OFFERTORY Improvisation on “Bring a Torch” - Christopher Uehlein
"What Child Is This"

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Text by William Chatterton Dix
Tune “GREENSLEEVES”, English ballad


The Message

SONG

"The Friendly Beasts"

1. Jesus, our brother, strong and good
   Was humbly born in a stable rude;
   And the friendly beasts around him stood,
   Jesus, our brother, strong and good.

2. “I” said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
   “I carried your mother uphill and down,
   I carried your mother to Bethlehem town;
   I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

3. “I” said the cow, all white and red,
   “I gave you my manger for your bed,
   I gave my hay to pillow your head;
   I,” said the cow, all white and red.

4. “I” said the sheep with curly horn,
   “I gave you my wool for a blanket warm,
   You wore my coat on Christmas morn;
   I,” said the sheep with curly horn.

5. “I” said the dove from the rafters high,
   “I cooed you to sleep so you would not cry,
   We cooed you to sleep, my love and I;
   I,” said the dove from the rafters high.

6. Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
   in the stable dark were glad to tell
   of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
   the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

Text: French carol
Tune: “ORIENTIS PARTIBUS”, French melody
PAGEANT  “On Christmas Night”

“Away in a manger”

“Silent Night”  Congregation verse 2 only

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

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

“Joy to the World”  Congregation verse 2 only

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns: let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

*BENEDICTION

*AFFIRMATION  “The Trees of the Field”  page 6

POSTLUDE  "Divinum Mysterium"  - setting by Aaron David Miller

*indicates all who are able, please stand

Welcome to all worshiping with us today. If you are new to Mission Hills UCC, we invite you to fill out the blue card in the pew so we can get to know you and share more about our ministries and community life. We are a church that welcomes families with children in every aspect of our common life. During worship, child care services are available in the church nursery for those under three years of age. Baby changing tables are available in the unisex bathrooms.
Pastor
Rev. Dr. David Bahr
Liturgist
Youth
Kristopher Abels
Director of Instrumental Music
Angelica Eclar
Director of Vocal Music
Artcel Ruiz
Director of Ministry with Children and Families
Fiona Case
Youth Leader
Trevor Norkowski
Worship Technologies Coordinator
Elizabeth Quiñones
Worship Technician
Carlos Wilson & Gloria Schacht
Administrative Assistant
Gloria Schacht & Jianna Ruiz
Sextons
ASL Interpreter
Melissa Smith
Youth Leader
Fiona Case
Director of Ministry with Children and Families
Trevor Norkowski
Director of Vocal Music
Angelica Eclar
Director of Instrumental Music
Kristopher Abels
Pastor
Rev. Dr. David Bahr

Mission Hills UCC - Upcoming Events

December
Mission Partner: UCC Christmas Fund
Monday, 12/19 Blue Christmas Service, MH Methodist 6 pm
Saturday, 12/24 Christmas Eve Services at 4 and 10 pm
Sunday, 12/25 Christmas Day Service at 10 am
Thursday, 12/29 Wedding of Megan Merrick and Ryan Erickson

January
Mission Partner: Casas de Luz Home Build
Sunday, 1/1 New Year's Day Service at 10 am -ONLINE ONLY
Sunday, 1/8 Renewal of Baptism Vows, 10 am
Sunday, 1/15 Honoring Rev. Dr. King, 10 am
Sunday, 1/29 Annual Corporate meeting

February
Mission Partner: Uptown
Black History Month
Saturday, 2/4 Mission Project: Casas de Luz Home Build, Tijuana
Sunday, 2/5 Mission Project: Casas de Luz Home Build, Tijuana
Partnership Racial Justice Event
Sunday, 2/19 Souper Bowl
Wednesday 2/22 Ash Wednesday
Sunday, 2/26 First Sunday in Lent

For all events, visit our online calendar:
https://missionhillsucc.org/calendar-of-events/
“The Trees of the Field”

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,

and the mountains and the hills will break forth before you.

There’ll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field

will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

The trees of the field will clap their hands.

The trees of the field will clap their hands,

while you go out with joy.

Text by Steffi Geiser Rubin, Tune by Stuart Dauermann

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