



PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OF THE ROSES

Reaching Out with Nurturing Love to All People



December 24, 2023
Lessons & Carols

Candlelight Worship 7 PM

(The candle you receive on entry will be lit during the singing of Silent Night. Children will receive battery-powered candles. Please return them to the baskets on your way out. Join us for a reception after worship.)

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE *"Silent Night"* Franz Gruber arr. by Fred Bock

WELCOME

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING Jessica Arriola and Ellen Marks

Reader 1: We watched, we waited, in hope for peace, in joy, with love!

Reader 2: On a night like tonight, our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace was born in a manger!
God's greatest gift to the world! *(light the Christ candle)*

***All:* Once we walked in darkness. Now we have seen a great light!
May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds.
May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth
in Bethlehem this night fill our lives and become part of all that we say
and do. May we share the divine love of your son, Jesus Christ, grateful
that you humbled yourself to share our humanity. Amen.**

INTROIT *"Oh, Holy Night "* Adolphe Adam
 Wendy Tamis, Harp

*CALL TO WORSHIP

They have heard it announced on the hills, they have seen the star!

Some are looking up the prophecy, some are studying the skies, but none deny the special birth.

Some are dancing back to sheepfolds, some await more information, others celebrate the news!

In a foreign place, in a chilly place, in a busy unexpected place, a young couple copes with their blessed newborn child.

At what seems the wrong time, in what seems the wrong place, among those who seem to be the wrong people, God has decided to bless, to disturb, and to come to us with love. **Let us worship God!**

*CAROL #113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* French Carol, 1860

*Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:2-7 The Prophecy Chris Rhodes

*CAROL #145 *What Child is This?* W.C. Dix, 1871

*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!*

REFLECTION The Christmas Spirit Diane Osten

*CAROL #121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* P. Brooks, 1868

*O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep*

*the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.*

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7 *The Night of Wonder* Norm Smith

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Sweet Holy Child* Mary Caldwell

Bill Morgan, Soloist, Wendy Tamis, Harp

CHRISTMAS POEM by Elizabeth Madox Roberts Nita Pinney

*CAROL #115 (vs 1&2) *Away in a Manger* J. Murray, 1887

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.*

*I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

CHILDREN'S TIME READING AND SINGING

Linda Burille

"The Gift of Nothing" by Patrick McDonnell

CAROL #136 *Go, Tell it on the Mountain* African American Spiritual

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.*

CAROL #119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

C. Wesley, 1739

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"*

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-20

Shepherds & the Baby Jesus

Lindsay Olsen

SPECIAL MUSIC

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Althea Wright

CAROL #147

The First Nowell

English Carol, 1833

*The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER *(in unison)*:

Kim Seamans

Loving God, help us do what our role models of faith showed us long ago. May we do what Mary did and deeply trust in you; what Joseph did and courageously ignore scorn to accomplish your will; what the Wise Men did and faithfully go to worship you. And help us always do as the shepherds did - stop the busyness of life, drop all the distractions, and follow your light in order to praise and glorify you. We thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ. Help us imitate his Prince of Peace Way of being in this world and with one another, as we pray the prayer he taught us, saying:

Our Father, who art 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 the power, and the glory forever! Amen

*THE GIVING OF THE LIGHT John 1:1-5

Rev. Dr Cindy Alloway

(Please form a large circle around the sanctuary and pass the light as it comes to you. Blow all candles out after Silent Night.)

*CAROL #122

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

F. Gruber, 1818

*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.*

*CAROL #134 *"Joy to the World"* attr. George F. Handel, 1742

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *"Joy to the World"* attr. George F. Handel, 1742

***Thank you to our soloist, Bill Morgan, Accompanist, Althea Wright,
Harpist Wendy Tamis, our Tech Team and all those who made this
beautiful evening possible.***

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE ROSES 2500 Patio Court, Santa Rosa, Ca 95405

Office Hours: Tues./Wed. 9am–3pm, Thursdays 9am-12pm

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[Please join us for Cookies and Hot Cocoa in Bowen Hall after service.](#)

***YOU are invited to join us for MORE spiritual inspiration,
uplifting music and fun fellowship
every Sunday morning here at 10am.***

***YOU are invited to our contemporary service,
"Sacred Space" the first Sat. at 5pm. which features
acoustic guitar, sharing and exploring our faith in a
warm welcoming setting.***

Other ways to connect: Sun. service @ 7:30am on KSRO 103.5 FM
Live on Zoom, our website or our church Facebook page.



We serve our local community.

Please consider donating to our many ministries such as the FREE HOT BREAKFAST we make for the youth at Montgomery High School 5 days a week.

Each day we serve close to 100 hungry youth. More funding and volunteers are needed.

Please contact the church office at 707.542.4272 or : office@churchoftheroses.org . Donations can be placed in the basket at the entrance (or in Campbell Ct.) to the church.



FREE CONCERT

Sunday Jan. 14th 4pm

“The Oyster Trio” featuring –

Jennifer Cho, Judiyaba and Marilyn Thompson

*Thank you for joining us tonight.
God bless you, and Merry Christmas!*

