

# Order of Worship

December 3, 2017

9 & 10:30 o'clock

## *First Sunday of Advent*

**Prelude**

*Improvisation*

**For Your Reflection**

They are like greedy dogs that never get enough. These leaders have no understanding. They each do as they please and seek their own advantage.

— Isaiah 56:11

We should think about others and not about ourselves.

— 1 Corinthians 10:24

I have one life and one chance to make it count for something...I'm free to choose what that something is, and the something I've chosen is my faith. Now my faith goes beyond theology and religion and requires considerable work and effort. My faith demands—this is not optional—my faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference.

— Jimmy Carter

None-tenths of our unhappiness is selfishness, and is an insult cast in the face of God.

— G.H. Morrison

Christ regarded the self-loving, self-regarding, self-seeking spirit as the direct antithesis of real living. His two fundamental rules for life were that “love-energy,” instead of being turned in on itself, should go out first to God and then to other people.

— J.B. Phillips

When a man is wrapped up in himself, he makes a pretty small package.

— John Ruskin

Conventional wisdom has always held that when we help others, some of the good we do flows back to us. That satisfaction has always been thought to be largely emotional—feeling good when you do good. Now important, widely discussed research shows that helping others regularly produces significant health benefits as well—in fact, it has effects similar to those many of us experience when we exercise.

— Allan Luks from *The Healing Power of Doing Good*

**\*Church Bell**

(\*The congregation is invited to stand)

**\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist: We gather this morning,

People: **With joy and thanksgiving.**

Liturgist: Keep the fire of your Spirit burning in us,

**People:** And let us hear your prophecies with fresh ears.

**Liturgist:** With hearts full of anticipation,

**People:** We await your coming, O Lord.

**Liturgist:** Let us worship the Lord our God.

**\*Hymn (10:30am)** O come, O come, Emmanuel *Veni Emmanuel*

**Lighting of the 1st Advent Candle** Bob & Connie Hosemann (9am)  
Lowe/Furber Family (10:30am)

**Prayer of Praise and Invocation**

**Silent Prayer**

**Prayer of Preparation and Confession**

*God of peace, you sent light into the world in the birth of Jesus the Christ. Yet we confess that we have not followed faithfully the light you gave us. We have not searched diligently for signs of your love, or trusted fully in the goodness of the gospel. We have failed to live into the promise of your Son's birth as we have refused to spread his peace on earth. We have expected little and hoped for less. So forgive our doubt, God. Renew in us a desire to watch, and to wait, and to hear once more the glad story of the Prince of Peace. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

**Choral Response and Words of Assurance**

**Words of Christian Greeting**

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

*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 for ever. Amen.*

**Anthem** *Geistliches Wiegenlied (Sacred Lullaby)* J. Brahms  
Tina Harrington, alto  
Dan Reiter, violoncello  
(Sung in the original German) (1833-1897)

*Ye who hover above the treetops, in the night and the wind, you holy angels, make the wild winds to be silent, for my child sleeps! You palm trees of Bethlehem, in the raging wind, why do you rustle so angrily? Do not blow thus, but be silent; sway softly and gently, and be silent, for my child sleeps! The Child of Heaven suffers; he feels the weary sorrows of the earth. But now he sleeps, and all darkness is banished. Let the wild winds be silent, for my child sleeps! Bitter cold descends, and I have nothing with which to cover my child! All you angels, who hover in the air, make the wild winds to be silent, for my child sleeps!*



**For Further Reading:**

*The Paradox of Choice: Why More is Less* by Barry Schwartz

*The Progress Paradox: How Life Gets Better While People Feel Worse*  
by Gregg Easterbrook

*The American Paradox* by David G. Myers

*The Healing Power of Good* by Allan Luks

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We are delighted and grateful that you have come to worship here this morning. We especially welcome those of you who are visitors. If you would like more information about PCC, please visit the Welcome Table after the service and speak with a member of the Welcoming Team. Welcomers can be identified by their special name tags.

Our Welcoming Team includes **Helen Steers** and **Charly Taylor**.

Please join us after the service for coffee.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Steven Thorne in **loving memory of his wonderful aunt, Harriette Daniel Thorne Kent.**

Please silence your cell phones.

This morning's greeters are **John & Connie Halley**. The ushers are **Christy Guidici, Linda McClain,** and **Gino & Alice Roth**. The Board of Deacons greeters are **Jay Foreman** and **Lynn Nelson**. They will be available during the coffee hour to answer questions you may have about the church.

The Clara Barton Room (outside sanctuary to the right) has closed circuit viewing of the service for parents with infants and young children.

Please ask an usher for assistance if needed.

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## *Announcements*

• **Alternative Gift Market (AGM) - this Sunday, December 10, 17**  
Make a real difference in the world this Christmas. Shop the Alternative Gift Market catalog to help alleviate the daily struggles of those in our community and abroad. The market will be held after services. Pick up a catalog and choose a ministry to support knowing 100% of your gift is given to your chosen cause. Check, cash or credit card welcomed. Orders can also be mailed to the church and will be available online at [PiedmontChurch.org](http://PiedmontChurch.org). For more information, contact Rev. Don Ashburn at: [don@piedmontchurch.org](mailto:don@piedmontchurch.org) or (510) 547-5700.

• **LOVE'S PURE LIGHT, An Overture to Christmas.** There is just one more opportunity - tonight at 7:00 - to hear this magnificent performance of choral and orchestral music which celebrates the beauty, magic and mystery of the Christmas season. The concert features original music by our own Steve Main and others as well as unique arrangements of familiar carols featuring complex harmonies, all of which tie to the role and meaning of light in the Christmas story. You too will have the chance to sing carols accompanied by the orchestra. The concert will fill your soul with the joy of the season. And afterwards enjoy the sumptuous buffet of savories and sweets in the Guild Hall as you mingle with friends and the musicians. Tickets are available until two hours before the concert on-line. Follow the link on [piedmontchurch.org](http://piedmontchurch.org). Any remaining tickets can also be purchased after the morning services on Sunday or at the door. General admission tickets at \$40 and reserved/patron seating is \$125.

• **Christmas Caroling This Wednesday** Guild Hall Wednesday, December 6, 7:45 pm after the tree lighting in Piedmont Park. Fun for the whole family. Hot cider, great refreshments and Christmas carols.

• **82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Children's Christmas Pageant** Sunday December 10, 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Our children will be singing Christmas carols and performing in Radio Station Y-U-L-E, a Christmas play about the Nativity arranged by Wayne Guidici. The Salvation Army Band will be joining us for the 47th year. This is a fun event for everyone. Please come and bring your friends and family. Contact Leslie Quantz [leslie@piedmontchurch.org](mailto:leslie@piedmontchurch.org).

• **Adult Fellowship Christmas Party** Friday, December 8, 6:30 pm at Highlands Country Club, 110 Hiller Dr., Oakland. Admission is \$5 per person. Enjoy a festive fellowship event, where you' ll meet new people, see old friends and sing a few Christmas carols. Sign up after services or contact [jean@piedmontchurch.org](mailto:jean@piedmontchurch.org) or (510) 547-5700 to let her know if you' d like to bring ham/turkey/vegetarian main, a side dish, salad, dessert or appetizer. Bring a beverage of your choice. Remember to park on the street.

• **Adopt a Family** The Deacons invite you to participate in our Christmas Outreach Mission for 2017, Adopt-a-Family. CityTeam Ministries serves the poor and homeless in the Bay area. They have identified Oakland families in need of food and Christmas gifts. Each family has provided their children' s ages and sizes so we can provide exactly what they need this season. Some families have asked for gift cards so that they can enjoy shopping for their own children or buy food for a holiday feast. Participation is easy. Sign up at the Deacons' table today, shop for requested items, gift wrap your purchases and label them with recipient' s first and last name. Bring your gifts to the boxes in the Guild Parlor by December 13. CityTeam picks up on December 16.

- **Advent Dinner** Immediately following the Pageant on Sunday December 10 join us in Guild Hall. Adults (18+) \$15. Youth (17 and under) \$5. Children under 10 who would like macaroni and cheese, free. Sign up during Sunday services or call Jean Leahy at (510-547-5700). Payment at the door.
- **Christmas for the Homeless at The Berkeley Men's Shelter** Volunteers are needed to serve a Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 23 from 6:30 - 8 pm. A sign-up list available in Guild Hall on Sunday, December 10 and 17. Sign-ups for gift bags for the homeless also available. See Barbara Crawford in Guild Hall with questions or call (510) 547-5700.
- **Altar Guild Bake and Goodie Sale** Held December 10 in conjunction with our church Alternate Gift Market. We will have a table inside Guild Hall for all the wonderful treats people will donate. Cookies, cakes, homemade candy, jellies and jams, brownies and fudge have sold well in the past. Please consider participating by baking or creating treats. Drop off your tasty creations in the church kitchen Saturday, December 10, before noon or on the morning of the sale before 9 am. All donations should be wrapped and ready for sale. Pies, cakes and breads are sold whole, not sliced. All funds raised go toward buying new banners for the front of the sanctuary.
- **Nursery Coordinator Needed**, Piedmont Community Church. Sundays from 10 am to noon. There will be a few evening and weekend events (TBD). Applicants must be over 18 years of age. This is a paid position. For job description, or to apply, contact Director of Children's Ministries, Piedmont Community Church, 400 Highland Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611 or [leslie@piedmontchurch.org](mailto:leslie@piedmontchurch.org).
- **Facebook video of PCC/Imani Pulpit Exchange** Consider following us on Facebook where stories highlighting the life of our church are told. Watch a short video of the Imani Pulpit Exchange. More than 2,300 people have viewed the video so far. Watch and share at [facebook.com/PiedmontCommunityChurch](https://facebook.com/PiedmontCommunityChurch).
- **Your Pledge Matters** Each fall, we set our focus on stewardship by receiving pledges in support of our ministries. Every member is invited to participate in a journey of reflection on gratitude and generosity. Please use the card in the pew in front of you or visit [piedmontchurch.org](http://piedmontchurch.org) to pledge.

## *Weekly Calendar*

### **Sunday, December 3**

- 9:00 am          Worship service, Sanctuary
- 10:30 am        Sunday School preK - 12, Christian Education Building
- 10:30 am        Worship service, Sanctuary
- 10:30 am        Nursery care, Christian Education Building
- 7:00 pm          Rock, Youth Room
- 7:00 pm          Christmas Concert & Reception

### **Monday, December 4**

- 10:00 am        Piedmont Gardens Bible Study
- 4:30 pm        Spiritual Formation Group, Guild Parlor
- 7:00 pm        Board of Deacons, Guild Parlor

### **Tuesday, December 5**

- 11:00 am        Staff Meeting, Staff Workroom
- PHS Lunch Break    Rock Pizza Lunch
- 7:00 pm        Handbells will not meet
- 7:00 pm        Small Group Bible Study

### **Wednesday, December 6**

- 2:30 pm        LiveWire, Youth Room
- 7:00 pm        Chancel Choir, Lindamood Choir Room
- 7:45 pm        Christmas Tree Lighting Reception & Caroling

### **Thursday, December 7**

- 9:45 am        Women's Bible Study, Guild Parlor
- 7:00 pm        Walking Together, Guild Parlor

### **Friday, December 8**

- 6:30 pm        Adult Fellowship Christmas Party

### **Saturday, December 9**

- 7:30 am        Men's Bible Study, Founders' Room
- 8:00 am        Christmas Pageant rehearsal

### **Sunday, December 10**

- 9:00 am        Worship service, Sanctuary
- 10:30 am        Sunday School preK - 12, Christian Education Building
- 10:30 am        Worship service, Sanctuary
- 10:30 am        Nursery care, Christian Education Building
- 5:30 pm        Children's Christmas Pageant, Sanctuary
- 6:15 pm        Advent Dinner, Guild Parlor
- 7:00 pm        Rock, Youth Room

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 3 - Christmas Concert and Reception
- December 2 - CityTeam Lunch/Dinner Volunteers
- December 3, 10, 17 - Alternative Gift Market
- December 6 - Christmas Caroling, following the Tree Lighting ceremony
- December 8 - Adult Fellowship Christmas Party
- December 10 - Annual Altar Guild Bake and Goodie Sale
- December 10 - Christmas Pageant and Advent Dinner
- December 23 - Berkeley Men's Shelter Volunteers

## Memorial Poinsettias

The sanctuary will be adorned for Christmas with traditional poinsettias, to be designated in memory or honor of someone special. To donate a plant, please fill out this form, attach your check (\$15 per plant), and mail to: PCC, 400 Highland Ave., Piedmont, 94611, or drop off in the office. Make check payable to "PCC," noting the memo, "poinsettia." Forms must be received by December 18.

ENCLOSED IS \_\_\_\_\_ (\$15 per plant)

Donor Name & Address:

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Given in Honor / Memory (circle one) of:

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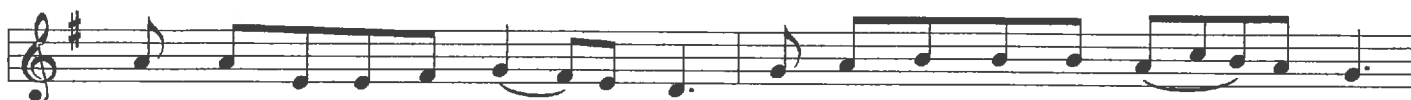


# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Veni Emmanuel*



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
2. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se free, thine own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - y;
3. O come, thou Day - spring, come — and cheer our spir - its by thine ad - vent here;



that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the son of God — ap - pear.  
from depths of hell thy peo - ple save, and give them vic - tory o'er — the grave.  
and drive a - way the shades — of night, and pierce the clouds and bring — us light.

Re-joyce! Re-joyce! — Em - man - u - el — shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el! —

Words: Latin, circa 9th century, alt.

Music: plainsong, Mode I, *Processionale*, 15th century; adapted Thomas Helmore (1811-1890), alt.

# 104 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace . . . Luke 2:14

Edmund H. Sears, 1849

CAROL C.M.D.  
Richard S. Willis, 1850



1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, That glo - rious song of old,  
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, With peace - ful wings un - furled,  
3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4. For lo, the days are has - tening on, By proph - et seen of old,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
And still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world:  
Who toil a - long the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow,  
When, with the ev - er - cir - cling years, Shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good-will to men, From heav'n's all - gra - cious King": The  
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hov - ering wing: And  
Look now! for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing: O  
When the new heav'n and earth shall own The Prince of Peace their King, And



world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.  
ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.  
rest be - side the wea - ry road, And hear the an - gels sing.  
the whole world send back the song Which now the an - gels sing.

