



CHRISTMAS EVE, 7 & 9PM



Christmas
BRINGS
HOPE



WELCOME

No matter your age, race, economic status, religious background, gender or sexual orientation, you are welcome here.

VISIT ONLINE AT PIEDMONTCHURCH.ORG

Piedmont Community Church
400 Highland Avenue
Piedmont, California 94611
(510) 547-5700

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
2. God of _____ God, _____ Light _____ of _____ Light, _____
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, _____
4. Yea Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, _____

O come ye, O come _____ ye to Beth - - le - hem;
_____ Lo! he ab - hors _____ not the Vir - - gin's womb;
_____ sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heav'n _____ a - bove;
_____ Je - - sus, to thee _____ be _____ glo - - ry giv'n;

come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Ve - ry _____ God, Be - got - ten, not cre - a - - ted;
glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Word of the Fa - - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, _____ Christ, _____ the Lord.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Steve Schibsted

Prelude

Introit

Il est né, le divin Enfant
Chancel Choir

trad. French
arr. S. T.

He is born, the heavenly Child; let oboes and bagpipes resound, and let us sing his Nativity!
For over four thousand years, Prophets have foretold his coming; and we have awaited this happy hour.
—18th century French Main

(*The congregation is invited to stand)

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: We gather this night to share good tidings of great joy!
People: Today, in the town of Bethlehem, a Savior has been born to us.
Liturgist: He is Christ the Lord!
People: With the angels, let us sing our praises.
All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all on whom God's favor rests!

***Carol**

O come, all ye faithful

Adeste fideles

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Blaire and Evan Jahn (7pm)
The Fletcher Family (9pm)

Prayer of Prayer of Praise and Choral Response

Dr. Don Ashburn

Christmas Greeting

First Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 9:2; 6-7

*The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.
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, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,*

*establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.*

***Carol**

O Little town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

Second Scripture Lesson

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

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

I wonder as I wander
Christa Pfeiffer, soprano
Andrew Green, tenor
Chancel Choir
Stephen Main, harp

arr. Stephen Main
(Trad. Appalachian)

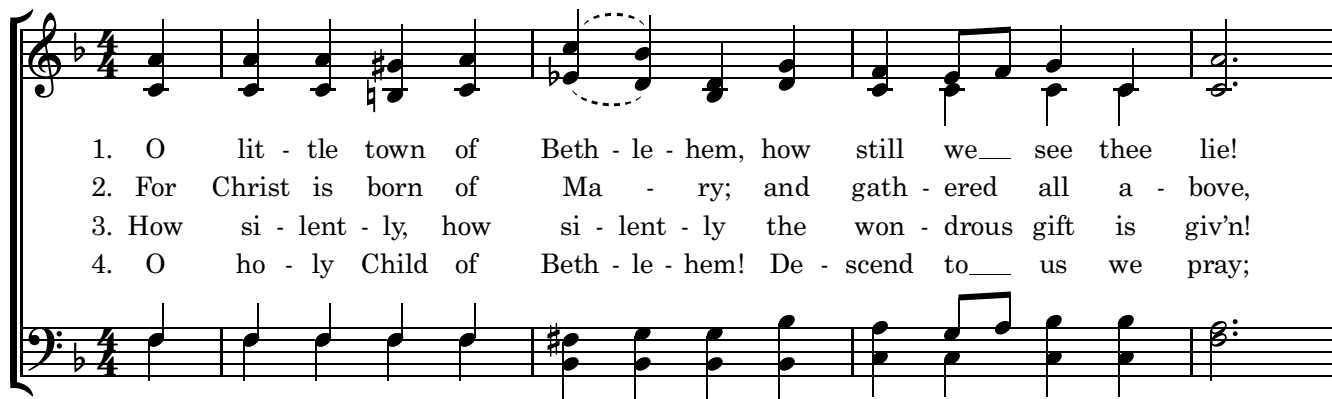
I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die, for poor or'nery people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall, with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all. And out of God's heaven a star's light did fall, and the promise of ages it then did recall.

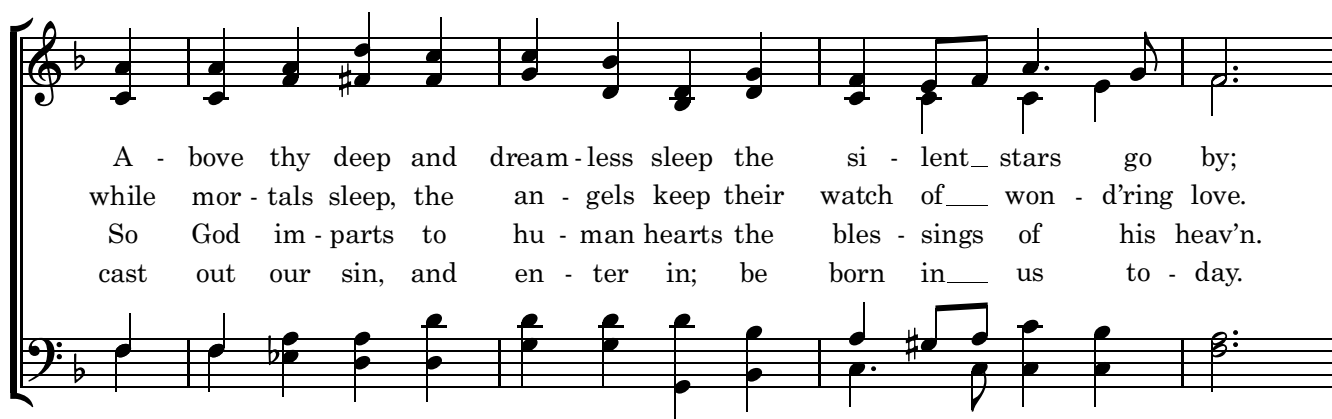
If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing – a star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's angels in heaven to sing – he surely could have had it, 'cause he was the King.

–Traditional

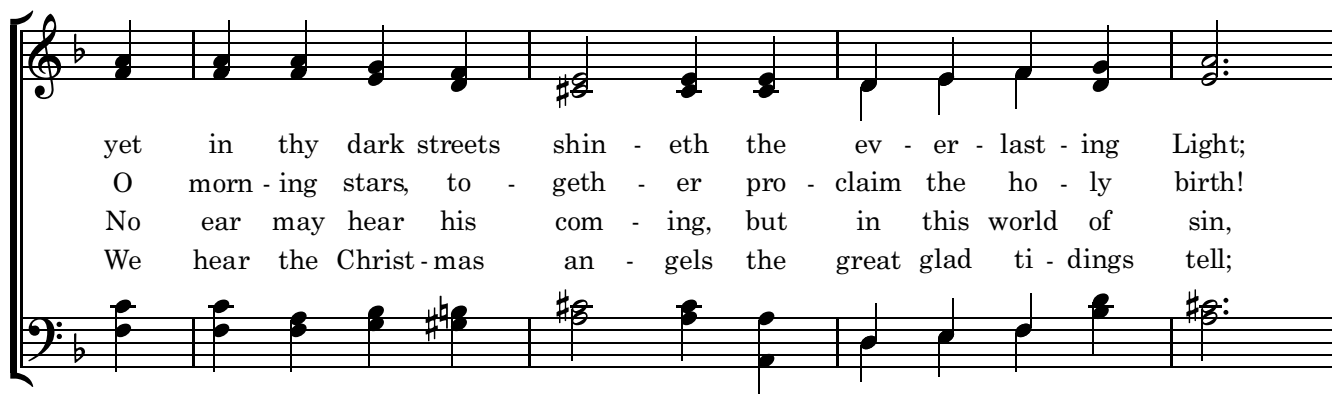
O Little Town of Bethlehem



1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bles - sings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
where meek souls still re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Introduction of Christmas Offering

Dr. Ashburn

Rise Above - Children Rising Short Film

Michael Barber

Offertory**Christmas Lullaby
Chancel Choir**John Rutter
(born 1945)

Clear in the darkness a light shines in Bethlehem; angels are singing, their sound fills the air. Wise men have journeyed to greet their Messiah, but only a mother and baby lie there. Ave Maria, Ave Maria, hear the soft lullaby the angel host sing. *Ave Maria, Ave Maria, Maiden and Mother of Jesus our King.*

Where are his courtiers and who are his people? Why does he bear neither sceptre nor crown? Shepherds his courtiers, the poor for his people, with peace as his sceptre and love for his crown. *Ave Maria, Ave Maria, hear the soft lullaby the angel host sing...*

What though your treasures are not gold or incense? Lay them before him with hearts full of love. Praise to the Christ child and praise to his mother who born us a savior by grace from above! *Ave Maria, Ave Maria, hear the soft lullaby the angel host sing...*

—John Rutter

Meditation Text

Colossians 1: 15-17

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Christmas Meditation

"THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD"

Rev. Dr. Steve Schibsted

***Carol**

Silent night, holy night

Stille Nacht

As you remain seated, the candles are lighted. Please share the candle flame by holding the lit candle upright, and tipping the unlit candle to it.

When all candles are illuminated, all will sing "Silent Night."

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, heav'nly 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.

Commission and Benediction

Dr. Schibsted

(Please extinguish candles at this time and hand them to an usher as you exit the church)

***Carol** (see next page)

Joy to the world

*Antioch***Organ Voluntary***Improvisation*

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re - ceive her King;
2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; let us our songs em - ploy;
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground;
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove

let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
he comes to make his bless - ings flow
the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing,
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy,
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his love,

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na -

and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
far as, far as the curse is found.
and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

ture sing,

Christmas Poinsettia Donations

In Memory Of

Shirley Kampp (Suzie and Dick Rahl)

Bill Drum (Franki Davies)

**O.W. and Ruth Willard, Fran and Dick Leicher, John Newton,
and Barbara Hammond** (Patricia Leicher)

Carl and Nora Meadows (Bob and Judy Wright)

Lenel and Thelma Shuck (Bob and Judy Wright)

Allen V Hirsch (Sarah Hirsch)

Joan Kingsbury and Robert Campbell (Katherine and Will Campbell)

William A. Kendrick (Vicki Kendrick)

Polly Jackson (Elizabeth Becker)

Charles Yager (Janice Yager)

**George, Esther, Ron, and Becky Coffin, David, Jeanne, and
David W. MacMorris, Christopher David Coffin,
Marilyn Charles** (Rick and Sue Coffin)

Clive Chandler, Peggy and Art Eliel (Ann Chandler)

Joanne Peterson (Janet and Kurt Peterson)

Diane Benson (John Benson)

Ruth, Bill, George and Mark Nicholson (Kathy Hull and Bill Gisvold)

Dick Fletcher (Alison, Michele and Darren Fletcher)

Bett and William Hunter and Annie and Samuel Lum (Margaret Lum)

Ann Zook (Audrey Sung and Matthew Truesdell)

Helen Steers (Rick and Sue Coffin)

In Honor Of

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gisvold, Daniel Gisvold and Louise Reardon (Kathy Hull)

Rick Hagan, Mike Hong, Peter Carter, and Keith Tollas (Kathy Hull)

Evelyn Edens 101st Christmas (Alison, Michele and Darren Fletcher)

Gratitude for each church staff member (Nancy and Bill Branagh)

Judy and Bob Wright (Rick and Sue Coffin)

Needles and Hooks (Rick and Sue Coffin)

Piedmont Community Church Choir (Rick and Sue Coffin)



In order to envision the future of any organization, it is necessary to re-examine and to re-assess its mission: the core, defining, motivation purpose that sets the plan in motion and gives it meaning. For a Christian church, that purpose is perhaps stated most clearly in what is called “The Great Commission” – the last words the risen Christ says to his disciples at the end of Matthew’s Gospel (Matthew 28: 19-20)

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

There are many ways to interpret the meaning of these words – literally or figuratively, exclusively or inclusively, charitably or arrogantly. But the root message is clear: Jesus sends his disciples – that is, his Church – into the world to actively share the Good News of God’s grace and mercy, peace and love. The Church does this by word and by deed, in humble confidence and in compassionate service. Through baptism, it welcomes people who respond to God’s grace into a community of faith, the Body of Christ. Through teaching it nurtures growth in the Spirit and develops the gift of discipleship. At the same time, and following Jesus’ own example, it reaches out in love to serve all people, regardless of nationality, gender, social status or religious affiliation.

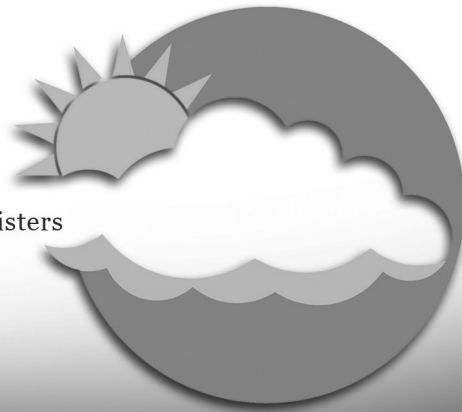
All this it does, remembering that Jesus promises to be with the Church when the Church is aligned with his mission.

The words of the Great Commission underlie the Mission Statement of Piedmont Community Church:

“Welcoming and nurturing disciples to serve.”

Piedmont Community Church
WOMEN'S RETREAT
REST & RENEW
Body, Mind, Spirit

Enjoy a day
of presence
with yourself,
your church sisters
and God.



SCAN TO REGISTER

JANUARY 13, 8:45AM - 4:45PM

\$50 - INCLUDES LUNCH

PIEDMONTCHURCH.ORG/WOMENS-RETREAT

CHURCH CENTER

STAY CONNECTED

- Check-In Your Family
- Give
- Find and Join Small Groups
- Manage Yours and Your Family's Profile
- Register for Events



GO TO YOUR **MOBILE APP STORE**
 DOWNLOAD **CHURCH CENTER APP**



THANK YOU!

We raised \$279,000 for capital improvements,
a total of \$579,000 with matching funds.



RISE ABOVE

A Story of Hope in Oakland

Watch our short film and donate at
PiedmontChurch.org/Children

OUR 2023 CHRISTMAS OFFERING



SCAN TO GIVE

