

CHRISTMAS EVE, 8 & 10PM

Love Joy Peace 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

Christmas Greeting

Introit

Il est né, le divin enfant (sung in French)

arr. Stephen Main

Chancel Choir

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 Carol

(*The congregation is invited to stand)

***Call to Worship**

Dr. Don Ashburn

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

Jeff, Margaret, Megan and Genevieve Hiller (8pm)

Mike and Laura Taylor (10pm)

Choral Response

Traditional American folk hymn

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

First Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 9:2; 6-7

Dr. Ashburn

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.

Anthem

I wonder as I wander
Michael Alvis, tenor, and Christa Pfeiffer, soprano
Chancel Choir
Stephen Main, harp

arr. Stephen Main

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die, for poor ornery 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 Appalachian tune

Christmas Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Dr. Ashburn

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.

Introduction of Christmas Offering

Dr. Ashburn

Call for Compassion – Short Film

Michael Barber

Offertory*When Christmas morn is dawning*

Kyle Pederson

Kate Benson, clarinet

(born 1971)

Chancel Choir**Kymry Esainko, piano, and Stephen Main, bass**

When Christmas morn is dawning, in faith help me to see the child there in the manger, a mirror, God, of thee. A gift of grace and mercy, of innocence and truth; the child there in the manger is making all things new.

Oh keep my gaze upon thee and may I ne'er forget that, though the world is trembling, Emmanuel lives yet. So come this Christmas morning, when I first awake, draw my heart to you, Lord, and with each breath I take, fill my soul with wonder at the manger where you lay. Oh, make my heart the manger where you lay.

–Words by Kyle Pederson

To donate using your phone and Venmo, see back page.

Second Scripture Lesson**Luke 2:1-20**

Dr. Schibsted

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.

Christmas Meditation

“THE GOD OF CHRISTMAS...INSPIRES WONDER”

Dr. Steve Schibsted

***Carol** (see next page)

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**

Joy to the world

Antioch

Organ Voluntary

Improvisation

CHURCH STAFF

VISIT ONLINE AT PIEDMONTCHURCH.ORG

Dr. Steve Schibsted, Senior Pastor
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Piedmont Church is equipped with the Loop Hearing System. Headsets are available in the Narthex. Ask an Usher for assistance.

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

Gerald McLaughlind (Shannon Peloquin)
Irene Diamant (Shannon Peloquin)
Robert & Carol Peloquin (Shannon Peloquin)
George & Jean Petersen (Shannon Peloquin)
Helen & Ron Saliba (Suzie Skugstad)
Clive Chandler (Ann Chandler)
Art & Peggy Eliel (Ann Chandler)
Margaret Holle (Janice Yager)
Charles "Tip" Yager (Janice Yager)
Eugene & Jean Majer (Miranda Bourbeau)
Elizabeth & John Linden (Jan Linden)
Judy Paquette (Nate Paquette)
William Taylor (Maggie Spencer)
Ernest Spencer (Maggie Spencer)
William & Bett Hunter (Margaret Lum)
Samuel & Annie Lum (Margaret Lum)
Arthur & Edith Hicks (Joyce Hicks)
Robert & Helen Behrens (Joyce Hicks)
Cora & Ray Poulton (James Stehr)
Patty Russell (Deborah Obendorf)
Polly Obendorf (Deborah Obendorf)
William Russell (Deborah Obendorf)
James Obendorf (Deborah Obendorf)
Dick Deutsche (Monika Deutsche)
Marolyn Stanley (Jane Inch)
John Igo (Mittie Igo)
Paul Nancarrow (Cathy Nancarrow)
Jean & George Nancarrow (C. Nancarrow)
Mabel & Wallace Macgregor (C. Nancarrow)
Joan Macgregor Marino
& Frank D. Marino Jr (Cathy Nancarrow)
Margaret Macgregor (Cathy Nancarrow)
James & Lutgarda Obando (Maureen Rhodin)
John Newton (Pat Leicher)
O.W. and Ruth Willard (Pat Leicher)
Fran and Dick Leicher (Pat Leicher)
Maureen Querio (Pat Leicher)

Kathleen Thurston (Judy Foreman)
Dave Foreman (Judy Foreman)
Lilly Foreman (Judy Foreman)
Connie McCabe (Kristine McCabe)
Joanne Peterson (Kurt Peterson)
Marjorie Michael (Kurt Peterson)
Marcia Nebel (Susan Banker)
Dr. Reverend Ken Williams (Susan Banker)
Alfred & Irene Sung (Audrey Sung)
Thomas M L & Dolores Bantz (Lori Austin)
Milt & Gloria Austin (Lori Austin)
Donna Falk (Duane Falk)
Gerald & Elise Johnson (Julie McDonald)
Said & Zabia Maqsood (Mariam Murray)
Nick Baz (Jay Foreman)
Peter Carter, Jon Anderson (Kathy Hull)
Al and Patt Shaw (Kathy Hull)
Jerry Noga (Kathy Hull)
The Nicholson Family
and Jan Stowell (Kathy Hull)
The Gisvold Family
and Aunt Louise (Kathy Hull)

In Honor Of

Patti Heilbron (Nancy Branagh)
Cathy Nancarrow (Michael Barber)
Pat Leicher (Michael Barber)



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.”

Winter Life Groups Begin Jan 8

The Winter Session of Life Groups is starting soon. In-person groups meet at church on Thursday evenings from January 8 to February 12. 4 of these groups get together starting at 6:15pm in Guild Hall for a shared meal, and then meet in separate rooms in the church at 7 pm.

There is also a group for parents of younger children that meets at 5:30 and then joins in dinner. Child care is available.

Online Life Groups meet from Wednesday January 7 until February 11 at 3 pm. Participants in Online Life groups will receive a Zoom link from the group leader once registrations are finalized. Adults are invited to participate in a Life Group, whether or not they have been in a group before. Each group of 8-12 people involves discussion, Bible study and mutual support.

All participants need to sign up to be part of a Life Group, whether in person or online. Registration deadline is January 6. Contact Don Ashburn at Don@PiedmontChurch.org



Confirmation

Walking By Faith and Not By Sight

January 11 - March 29

Confirmation Classes Begin January 11

We warmly invite all 7th graders and above to join us for our 2026 Confirmation journey—a meaningful season of exploring faith, asking questions and growing together. Classes begin Sunday, January 11, and lead up to a special overnight retreat March 27–28, with Confirmation Sunday celebrated on Palm Sunday, March 29.



Schedule

- Sundays, 12 - 1pm (starting January 11)
- Optional: Mondays, 3 - 4pm (offered if enough interest)

Location: Youth Room, C.E. Building

Curriculum: Alpha Youth Series

What Students Will Experience

- Explore core Christian beliefs
- Engage in open, honest conversations
- Build friendships and belonging
- Craft a personal Statement of Faith with guidance and support

Confirmation Sunday

Students who choose to become active members will be presented during worship on Palm Sunday, March 29.

Scan QR to Register by January 4

Congregational Care and Life Skills

One of the priorities for Piedmont Community Church's *Vision 2030* is to create a Congregational Care Ministry to offer care and support to those 'facing challenges, joys and everything in between.'

For several months, a team has been meeting to identify some of our congregation's needs and explore ways to meet them. Four trained lay volunteers have joined Don Ashburn in visiting about 30 folks who are unable to attend worship.

We want to expand this ministry, offering more people a chance to provide care.

Starting in January, Piedmont Church is partnering with First Presbyterian Church, Berkeley to offer a series of Life Skills classes. FPCB has held these popular classes for several years. They focus on developing communication skills, enhancing spiritual growth, navigating transitions, promoting healing and preparing participants to care for others – family, friends or community.

If you want to take part, classes meet Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9pm in Berkeley from January 7 to April 29. You don't need to attend every class to benefit. Several Piedmont Church folks will be taking part, so carpooling is available. There is a fee of \$100, though Piedmont Church can defray some of the cost.

Scan to register. Contact Don Ashburn at Don@PiedmontChurch.Org



Christmas Gifts Donations

With grateful hearts, we announce that, through the generosity of our church members and friends, 49 families and 11 ladies will be receiving specially selected gifts for Christmas. That's more than double 2024 activity level for the Adopt-A-Family program.

Quoting a donor, "We want these families to know that they are precious and loved by God and are seen with dignity and importance."

May the recipients know God's love in a personal way through these gifts. Thank you all for lifting spirits during hard times.





Watch the Short Film and Donate

CALL FOR

COMPASSION

FEEDING ALAMEDA COUNTY'S MOST VULNERABLE



ALAMEDA COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK

40
YEARS



Our 2025 Christmas Offering - Piedmontchurch.org

FILM BY MICHAEL BARBER