



The **WORD**  
of the  
**Church of the Good Shepherd**  
**United Methodist**

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December 8, 2020

**The Church of the Good Shepherd**  
**United Methodist Church**

400 W. Duarte Road, Arcadia, CA 91007 - [www.cgsum.org](http://www.cgsum.org) 626-447-2181

Broadcast Live at 10:00 a.m. to Facebook/CGSUM and to CGSUM.ORG

In-person gatherings remain suspended at CGS.

Please join us for ONLINE Sunday Worship Services (church website or Facebook Group Page)

No Bible Study during Advent—Join the Advent Book Study 9:00-9:45 a.m.

**Sunday, December 13, 2020**

**This Sunday in Worship**

***Third Sunday of Advent: Joy***

***Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-5 and Matthew 1:18-21***

***Message: "Jesus Our Saviour", The Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Preaching***

***Introit and Anthems: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel",***

***Handbell Piece, "Breath of Heaven" (Mary's Song)***

**Congregational Hymns from the United Methodist Hymnal: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee #89",  
"That Boy-Child of Mary #241", and "Joy to the World #246"**

***Save the date of Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> for a special Drive Thru Christmas Event at church.***

**Among the Church Family**

***In Our Prayers:***

Our prayers are with all those who have been mentioned previously. Be sure to include **Doris Wiechman** who was placed on home hospice care last week. She would love cards or calls to her on her daughter Karen's cell 626-464-3381.

Our condolences to **Barbara Bates-Jensen and family** upon the death of her father **Melvin Bates** on November 26, 2020. Services were held December 1, in Nebraska.

Condolences to the family of **Lorraine Pearsall** who died on November 29, 2020, at the age of 99 ½. Services are pending. Her husband "Bud" passed away in 1980.

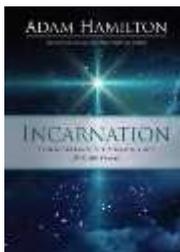
And condolences to **Ann Grimmett and family** upon the death of her mother **Shirley Christensen** on November 30, 2020. She was 92 and had been in hospice.

***Belated Birthday:***

Belated birthday wishes to **Florence Kovacic** who celebrated her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 19. She enjoyed a virtual party with her family including grandkids and great-grandkids.

***New Sanctuary Pew Photos!***

While we are still unable to worship together in person, It is wonderful to have your photos in the Sanctuary pews and show the slideshow of the photos each month. So all are encouraged to submit new photos (of yourself or your family) for the Sanctuary pews. They can be festive Christmas photos, or funny photos, or a photo of a place that you've vacationed to in the past. Please email your new photo to Pastor Eva ([PastorEva@cgsum.org](mailto:PastorEva@cgsum.org)) by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.



## CGS 2020 ADVENT BOOK STUDY

### INCARNATION - Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas

by Pastor Adam Hamilton, UMC of the Resurrection, Leawood, Kansas

Via Zoom, discussions will be EITHER

5 SUNDAYS, November 29, December 6, 13, 20, & January 3, 2021

9:00-9:45 am led by Michael Chesnut OR

5 MONDAYS, November 30, December 7, 14, 21, & January 4, 2021

7-8 pm led by Diane & Craig Lucas

## Celebrating 75 Years of Christian Ministry and Mission

### Through the Years - Christmas Memories

While the Christmas season itself is magical, it's often the memories and oft-repeated traditions that especially warm our hearts. It can be the gift-opening rituals we repeat with our children, the foods we prepare only at this time of year, or the carols we sing. As members of CGS, we have memories too—communal ones. Who of us do not recall with tenderness the little children's pageant? Garbed in long, homemade robes, the Three Wise Men trekked down the church aisle toward the manger scene where Joseph, Mary and the babe awaited them. Angels with glittery halos and white gowns gathered round them. Perhaps a shepherd with his crook and a fake woolly lamb came along. Fond memories indeed!

The Hanging of the Greens ushered in the season. Members carried a long garland of greenery down the center aisle, attaching it to the ends of the pews. All the while, the congregation sang appropriate songs like The Holly and the Ivy. They hung a large wreath in front of the lectern. Hanging from the pulpit was a quilted panel depicting the Nativity scene, and made by churchwomen.

We recall four Advent candles being lit in turn for four weeks, to symbolize joy, peace, hope, and love. And more candles lit after the 11 o'clock worship when we all went out into the courtyard lifting our voices in Silent Night.

Our choirs sang "glad tidings" each Advent Sunday, and we enjoyed revisiting Christmas tunes. Joy to the World, What Child is This? and It Came upon a Midnight Clear are but a few. They also gave a magnificent Christmas Concert on a Sunday afternoon in December.

Banked all around the altar were bright red poinsettias each year. Many were given in memory or honor of a loved one. They brightened the church until the Christmas Eve midnight service. Those not taken home by their donors were given to homebound members to enjoy.

We remember so many things as we approach the Yuletide season, and we anticipate repeating them. But there are some years when we cannot do as we have done before, years when we must use our ingenuity and talents to carry on the spirit, if not the actual event. This is one of those years. We have learned to do 'virtually' whatever we can to carry on. Pastor Eva still brings our Sunday message, and the Nativity panel hangs at her pulpit. Our choir and organist, albeit fewer of them, continue to make music. The Advent candles are lit, the poinsettias bedeck the altar. And someday other generations of Good Shepherd people will look back through their history and find us faithfully, although virtually, making Christmas memories.



### The Season of Advent: Joy

We move towards the third Sunday of Advent, waiting and preparing for the Christ child to come. As Pastor Eva noted last week, Advent is a time of love, hope, joy, and peace, and this week we reflect on joy. And as I was reflecting on joy and Advents past in preparation for this article, I realized something. Considering my day-to-day experience of Advent, I'm not sure it's a time of marked joy for me. When I replay past Advents in my mind, it just seems like I'm busy doing what many of us do during this season: working (or now studying), shopping for presents for family, helping at church, fulfilling normal responsibilities. And the time flies and then Christmas comes. Advent over.

Perhaps you can relate. If you can, I also wonder if, in these experiences of Advent, our joy is actually already within us. I wonder if we just need to do a little work to bring it to the surface. One way to do this would be by simply setting aside time to reflect on and relive the most joyous times we have had with Christ: perhaps an overwhelming and palpable experience of his love, perhaps we received his healing touch at a time when we desperately needed it, or maybe we have been overcome with awe and wonder at his presence in the midst of Christian community. At the very least, setting aside this time will help us slow down a tad. And perhaps reliving such moments, dwelling on the joy Christ gives us, will help make our joy more evident and present throughout the Advent season.

*-Michael Chesnut, Ministerial Intern*

## Foothill Unity Center Angels

Please help Foothill Unity center to make the Holiday season brighter for local children in need. Due to COVID 19 the Angel Project has been adapted to provide holiday gifts for children in a safe manner.

Sponsor a participating child 0-17 years of age with a \$25 gift card to either Kohl's or Marshall's stores which will be utilized for either toys, clothing or personal care items for each child's selection. These gift cards will be distributed to the registered families along with a holiday food box during the drive through distributions on the week of December 21, 2020 at both sites. Please have gift cards and donations towards Angel Project in by December 17, 2020. Please call us or email us with any questions.

**In Person Donations:** Gift cards or cash or check donations towards gift card purchases may be dropped at either the Pasadena or Monrovia sites.

**Decorate an Angel:** Download one or a few of our paper Angels below (link attached) to decorate and write a heartfelt message on back, and drop off at our centers.

**Online Donation:** Donate to our HOLIDAY ANGELS by going to this site:

[Foothill Unity Center, Inc. \(mobilecause.com\)](http://FoothillUnityCenter,Inc.(mobilecause.com))

Thank you,



**Kimberly Cowdery**

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### STAY AT HOME ORDERS IN PLACE!

Get your holiday shopping done the safe, easy and meaningful way! Shop at the Alternative Christmas Market by dropping off or sending your shopping list to church. You can get the shopping list by going to the Church of the Good Shepherd's website, click on the Announcements, and look for the FAMILY PROMISE article of 11/12 for their shopping list. Look for 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Alternative Market article of 11/3 to find the shopping list that includes CHURCH WORLD SERVICE, TREES FOR LIFE, FINCA, UNION STATION, HEIFER PROJECT, and HABITAT FOR HUMANITY. There are many meaningful gifts to honor those on your list and bless those in need both near and far.

### Pastor Eva's 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent Reflection: Peace

Jesus is the Prince of Peace. In him may we find a way to settle our hearts, hear God's word to love one another, and be a path for unity and justice. While these things may seem absent in the world, we must trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities. Pray for peace this week: Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you. And may we walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

Also: here is the Youtube information to see the Rev. Lockridge video that Pastor Eva quoted in Sunday's Sermon: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzqTFNfeDnE>

*Pastor Eva*



Advent Candle of Peace

**Sunday Service Is Broadcast Live at 10:00 am to Facebook/CGSUM and to CGSUM.ORG**

**Charge Conference Zoom Meeting Set for Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.** The District Superintendent, **The Rev. Melissa McKinnon**, will lead this annual meeting of Church Leaders including a 4pm meeting with SPRC.

**Tuesday mornings at 8:00-9:00 a.m. – Join the walking group in the church parking lot and courtyard!**



**FUNDRAISER**

**Eat Chipotle, help Good Shepherd Children's Center**

**Calling all burrito lovers,**

Foil your dinner plans and stop by the Chipotle at **608 W Huntington Dr in Monrovia** for our fundraiser on **Wednesday, December 16** from **4:00pm - 8:00pm**. We're raising money to support Good Shepherd Children's Center, so just download a flyer from the link below or mention the fundraiser at checkout and they'll donate 33% of the proceeds to the cause!

Good Shepherd Children's Center December Dine-out at Chipotle Dec. 16 from 4pm - 8pm

[Click here for more details.](#) Can't wait to see you.



*open hearts,  
open minds,  
open doors*

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**www.cgsum.org**

Ministers: Members of the Congregation

Resident Bishop: Bishop Grant J. Hagiya

District Superintendent: Melissa Roux MacKinnon

Pastor: Eva Thai-Erwin

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry: Franklyn Shen

Director of Music Ministry: Stephen Cook

Director of the Good Shepherd Children's Center: Linda Brown