

†Postlude *Toccata and Variation on Hyfrydol*

Gordon Young

*Kindly remain in silence during the closing postlude, or depart very quietly*



†Please stand as you are able.



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**Class of 2021**

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Pat McPhail  
Karen Schimnowski  
Ann Wright

CCLI #3216890  
CVLI #504148596

# First Presbyterian Church of Pasadena

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

December 22, 2019

10:30 am

He did not wait till the world was ready,  
till men and nations were at peace  
He came when the Heavens were unsteady  
and prisoners cried out for release.  
He did not wait for the perfect time.  
He came when the need was deep and great.  
He dined with sinners in all their grime,  
turned water into wine.  
He did not wait  
till hearts were pure.  
In joy he came  
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.  
To a world like ours, of anguished shame  
He came, and his Light would not go out.  
He came to a world which did not mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.  
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh  
the Maker of the stars was born.  
We cannot wait till the world is sane  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,  
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,  
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

*First Coming by Madeleine L'Engle*



**Leading in Worship Today**

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair, Preaching  
Bonnie Keith, Liturgist  
Marilyn Wilkins, Music Director  
Ron Ollis, Organist  
Barry Webb, Audio Visual



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# Service for the Lord's Day

## Gathering Around the Word of God

### Welcome and Life of the Church

**Prelude and Introit** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Mike Magatagan  
Handbell and Chancel Choirs

**Lighting of the Advent Candle** Ruth Askine, Diane Hall, Joan Gibertini, and Jean Johnston

### †Call to Worship

Leader: Look, O house of David! The Lord will give you a sign:

**All: The young woman shall bear a child;**

Leader: she shall name him Immanuel—

**All: God is with us.**

Leader: Listen, O house of David! The Lord draws near.

**All: With love in our hearts, let us worship God!**

†**Hymn of Praise #93** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

### Call to Confession

#### Corporate Prayer of Confession

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel! You call us each by name and invite us to follow you. But we—like sheep—do not heed your voice; we stray from your path. Now we call upon your name. Save us from all that ensnares our lives!

**All: Restore us, O God! Let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Leader: You claim us for service and assure us we have nothing to fear. But we are timid disciples who discount dreams and discredit messengers, for we do not believe you can use a flock like us to usher in your reign.

**All: Restore us, O God! Let your face shine, that our faith may be made strong.**

Leader: You come among us to enfold us with love. As we await the babe of Bethlehem, give us the steadfast faith of Joseph and the expectant hope of Mary, that we, too, may come in wonder to worship the newborn king.

**All: Restore us, O God! Let your face shine, that our trust may be renewed.**

### Silent Confession

**Liturgist** Amen

**Response #437** *You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!*

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

You are the Christ, giver of mercy!

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

### Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe and live the good news of the gospel.

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

†**Response** Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

### †Sharing the Peace of Christ

### Chancel Time with Children

Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love.

Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love.

**Anthem** *God's Gift to Us*

Glenn and Susan Eernisse

Youth choir with Chancel Choir

Chrissi Ellis, flute

Prophets writing long ago told the story so we would know,  
looking for Messiah's birth, peace and love for all on earth.  
Peace and love, hope and joy, promise of God in a baby boy.  
Hope and joy, peace and love, God's gift to us from heav'n above.

Looking for Emmanuel, spreading news that they had to tell,  
sharing stories full of joy, thankful for the special boy.

Peace and love, hope and joy, promise of God in a baby boy.  
Hope and joy, peace and love, God's gift to us from heav'n above.

God with us, Emmanuel, Prince of Peace sent to earth to dwell,  
Promised Savior, King of kings, God's good news to all He brings.

Peace and love, hope and joy, promise of God in a baby boy.  
Hope and joy, peace and love, God's gift to us from heav'n above.

God's gift to us from heav'n above.

**Prayer for Illumination #288** *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

**Old Testament Reading** Jeremiah 33:14-16 (p. 563)

**New Testament Reading** Matthew 1:18-25 (p. 681)

**Sermon** “Hey, Joseph...”

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair

### Responding to the Word of God

†**Affirmation of Faith** **Apostles' Creed (p. 34)**

†**Hymn of Affirmation #136** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

### Offering Our Gifts to God

**Offertory Music** *Noel Polonais*

Alexander Guilmant

†**Doxology: #606** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

†**Prayer of Dedication**

### Taking the Word of God into the World

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer (p. 35)**

†**Hymn of Inspiration #119** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

†**Benediction**

†**Response #601** Sevenfold Amen

John Stainer

*(in honor of the 49th wedding anniversary of Dan and Melba Slaven)*