



Holy Cross United Methodist Church
 1200 West Hammer Lane, Stockton, CA 95209
 (209) 472-2177 - www.holycrossumc.us
 Pastor, Rev. Heilala Ahio

We welcome you to worship with us

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Light of Christ, our PEACE, Enters

Welcome to Worship / Passing the Peace

Worship Leader, Ken Steele

Return to seats singing: *O Come Let Us Adore Him*

Chorus of UMH 234

Candle Lighting *Steele Family*

Advent 2

Ken Steele: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).

All: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God’s creation.

Ken Steele: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

Opening song *Light the Advent Candle vs 2*

TFWS 2090

Young People’s Moment

Rev. Heilala Ahio

Advent starts the Christmas glow

Vs 3 Away in a Manger UMH 217

Prayers and Where We See God

Prayer Song

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Pastoral Prayer/Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Heilala Ahio

Offertory/Doxology

Wayne Mock

Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Heilala Ahio

Hymn of Preparation

UMH 196

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-12 (CEB)

Worship Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon *A Really Nice Guy!*

Vaitafa Heimoana

Holy Communion

UMH pp15-16

Hymn of Purpose

UMH 209

Going Forth - Opportunities to Learn & Serve

Tracy Tennes

The Sending Forth & Benediction

Rev. Heilala Ahio

Song for Going Forth *People Look East (vs 1)*

Peace, the Guest, is on the way

UMH 202

The Light of Christ, our HOPE, Goes into the World

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar flowers are provided by the Tovi Family

Our Communion offering for DECEMBER Emergency Food Bank of San Joaquin

****Christmas gifts for the Pastor & Staff --We are collecting donations for gifts for Pastor Heilala and the church staff. If you would like to contribute, please place your donation in the offering plate marked “staff gift” (Checks need to be made out to Holy Cross UMC) or on the website under the “donate” tab and then click “Staff gift”. You can also give it to Mele Tongaofa, Staff Parish Chairperson. Last day to collect will be on Sunday, December 21st. Thank you, Staff Parish

WE ARE COLLECTING PLASTIC AND PAPER GROCERY BAGS FOR THE FARMER’S MARKET PASS OUT! Look for collection bin in the Social Hall.

The Discipline Devotional books for 2026 from the Upper Room will be available soon. The cost for regular print is \$18; the cost for large print is \$19. If you would like a copy please let me know by using the sign-up sheet available on Sunday mornings through December 14 or call Tracy at 209-327-7072.

Wednesday Night Live Returns! Launching on Wednesday, December 3 with an Advent Study of fearlessness and strength. Join us for a simple dinner at 5:30pm and a stay for an opportunity of learning and discussion starting at 6:30pm. We will ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of food. Please bring your own drink of choice. Water will be available. Our first learning and discussion opportunity will be an Advent study using the book “Calling All Angels” by Erin Wathen. The cost of the book is \$17. Pay by check to HCUMC with notation “advent book” or cash in an envelope with notation “HCUMC advent book”. The books have been ordered and should be here soon. We will meet on Dec. 3, 10, & 17; then take a break of 3 weeks for the holidays and resume on January 14th.

There will be a congregational workshop for the morning service on **Saturday, January 10th from 12:00 – 3:30pm**. Lunch will be provided. Our District Superintendent, Mary Maaga, has offered to lead this workshop as a result of our congregational meeting on Sunday, November 2nd for us to have meaningful conversations and explore a variety of possibilities of what could be offered through the morning worship service. Please save this date and plan to join us as we discern where God is leading us.

MERCY PEDALERS DONATIONS!

We need donations of: Bottled water, treats or cookies – store bought or homemade Instant oatmeal, fresh or canned fruit, Cup-a-soups, Granola or snack bars, dog food or treats wet wipes, Leftover party food, Hygiene items: travel size soaps, toothpaste, shampoo, etc. Men’s and women’s summer t-shirts and pants, socks, caps, blankets, sleeping bags...

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