

**Las Placitas Presbyterian Church December 24, 2020**  
Christmas Eve

**THE PEOPLE GATHER**

GATHERING MUSIC

Mindy Sampson

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

Rich Holmes

One: When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

**\*All: The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rich Holmes

One: Like the wise men we come to worship. Like the shepherds we come to see what God has done.

**\*All: And like believers through the ages, we come to give thanks that God has not stood back from us at a distance, but has entered our world with God's love.**

One: Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

**\*All: O come let us adore Him! Alleluia, Amen!**

Christmas Montage Video

Elliot Smith

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Beloved of God, if we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us therefore confess what we have done to sin against God and neighbor.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace and truth, on this night we remember that our Lord's first night on this earth was spent in a manger when there was no room in the inn. In the same way, we have refused to welcome your children although we claim to live in the name of Christ. We allow the poor and homeless to sleep on the streets. We reject those who do not look like us, who do not live like us, or who bring different ideas into our midst. We love those who are similar to us, who do not threaten us and who do not challenge us.**

**Forgive us, O God, for failing to make our churches, our homes and our hearts a welcome place for Christ. May the birth of Christ that we celebrate tonight bring about a new birth in us, so that we could change, repent, and turn from our sinful ways. Amen.**

## SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (pastor) Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ. And Christ died for us, Christ was raised for us, Christ reigns in power for us, and Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone and a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

**ACCEPTANCE OF FORGIVENESS (All) - We rejoice that we are forgiven and made new. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: As we listen for the Good News of Christ among us, let us pray:

**\*All: Lord, open our hearts and minds by the work of your Holy Spirit, so that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is experienced, we may hear with joy the word that you have for us today.**

## READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Isaiah 9: 2-7

English liturgist: Rich Holmes

## READING FROM THE GREEK SCRIPTURES Lucas 2: 1-14

Spanish liturgist: Dana Howarth

Por aquel tiempo, el emperador Augusto ordenó que se hiciera un censo de todo el mundo. Este primer censo fue hecho siendo Quirinio gobernador de Siria. Todos tenían que ir a inscribirse a su propio pueblo.

Por esto, José salió del pueblo de Nazaret, de la región de Galilea, y se fue a Belén, en Judea, donde había nacido el rey David, porque José era descendiente de David. Fue allí a inscribirse, junto con María, su esposa, que se encontraba encinta. Y sucedió que mientras estaban en Belén, le llegó a María el tiempo de dar a luz. Y allí nació su hijo primogénito, y lo envolvió en pañales y lo acostó en el establo, porque no había alojamiento para ellos en el mesón.

Cerca de Belén había unos pastores que pasaban la noche en el campo cuidando sus ovejas. De pronto se les apareció un ángel del Señor, y la gloria del Señor brilló alrededor de ellos; y tuvieron mucho miedo. Pero el ángel les dijo: 'No tengan miedo, porque les traigo una buena noticia, que será motivo de gran alegría para todos: Hoy les ha nacido en el pueblo de David un salvador, que es el Mesías, el Señor. Como señal, encontrarán ustedes al niño envuelto en pañales y acostado en un establo.'

En aquel momento aparecieron, junto al ángel, muchos otros ángeles del cielo, que alababan a Dios y decían:

'¡Gloria a Dios en las alturas! ¡Paz en la tierra entre los hombres que gozan de su favor!'

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because

there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

"O Holy Night/Santo la Noche"

Elliot Smith

SERMON "*Down to Earth*"

Rich Holmes

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (adapted from The Nicene Creed)**

**We believe in one God, the Creator, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Redeemer, Jesus Christ, the only Child of God, eternally begotten of the Creator, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with the Creator. Through Christ all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, Jesus Christ came down from heaven, was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit and became human.**

**For our sake Jesus was crucified under Pontius Pilate, suffered, died and was buried. On the third day, Christ rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures, ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God. Jesus Christ will**

come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and the Reign of God will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from God the Creator, and Jesus Christ the Redeemer, who with the Creator and the Redeemer, is worshipped and glorified and who has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER (Ecumenical version, adapted) Our Lord God in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING and OFFERTORY

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

One: On this night as so many of us give gifts to those we love, gifts wrapped up in beautiful packages and decorated with bows, we forget not all your gifts to us, O God—gifts of life, of family, of friends, of homes, more gifts than we can count.

**\*All: And now we present you these tithes and offerings as our thank you note for all your Christmas gifts to us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

### **FOLLOWING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD**

Musical Response

Elliot Smith

“Silent Night/Noche de Paz”  
(First four stanzas in English; fifth in Spanish)

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;  
Heavenly 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.

Silent night, holy night!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born.

Noche de Paz, noche de amor!  
Todo duerme en derredor,  
Entro los astros que esparcen su luz,  
Bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,  
Brilla la estrella de paz,  
Brilla la estrella de paz.

#### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**\*The congregation is asked to join in the responses labeled "All" but to keep their microphones muted. The liturgist, Anne Hays Egan, will keep her microphone on.**