



Pacific Beach

United Methodist Church

SUNDAY WORSHIP

DECEMBER 31, 2023 10:00 AM

WE GATHER TOGETHER PRAISING GOD

Greeting

Christmastide Songs of Praise

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice ” #224 Vs 1 & 3

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today!

Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

Now ye need not fear the grave: News, news! Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

“Away in a Manger?” #217 Vs 1 & 3

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,

The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,

The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay

Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,

And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” #251 Vs 1 & 3

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,

Behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light. *Refrain*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,

And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Every year we celebrate Christmas.

All: Every month we break bread.

One: Every week we gather for worship.

All: Every day we count our blessings.

One: Every minute God is near.

**Please stand as you are able*

Credit for liturgical elements: Prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed / A Sanctified Art LLC / sanctifiedart.org;

Joan Foster

All: Yes, every minute God is near.

One: These are the rituals of our faith.

All: Let us worship Holy God.

*Opening Hymn *sung to tune #698*

“In This New Year”

**In this New Year, we raise our song to thee,
From this great hope, your guiding light we see.
We seek your presence, come to be our guide,
Always and ever, with us at your side.**

**We live to serve you, thought and word and deed,
Bathed your light, our souls in you are freed.
God of the ages, dwell in us we pray,
Bound in your love and fellowship to stay.**

**Onward and upward, fellowship in hand,
Wrapped in your grace, bring peace unto this land.
Make us your servants, guide us now we pray.
In you we live, our God, our constant stay.**

Opening Prayer

Joan Foster

Gracious God, when our world turns upside down or when the road ahead is unclear, we return to ritual. We come to the sanctuary. We break bread at table. We pour water. We greet one another as family. And we listen to your Word. Today we pray—meet us in this moment. Meet us in these rituals that anchor us and speak a word of hope. We are listening. We are drawing near. We are seeking you. Amen.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ #2021

“What a Mighty God We Serve” Vs 1-3

**What a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve;
What a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve!
Let us sing and praise the Lord....repeat three times
Let us shout and praise God’s name...repeat three times**

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Children’s Time

Ken Brown

Music to Lift our Spirits

Scripture:

Luke 2:21-38

Joan Foster

Message:

We Root Ourselves in Ritual

Ken Brown

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S LOVE

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that faith is a journey marked by rituals and rhythms. We come to worship. We confess our sins. We pass the peace. We offer grace. We hear the Word. We baptize children. We break the bread. And we tell the story of a loving God. And through these sacred rituals, we are reminded: we are not alone. God is near, and we have work to do. May this belief shape the rhythm of our lives. Amen.

**Please stand as you are able*

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Song of Prayer #3154

“Draw the Circle Wide” Vs 1 & 2

Solo: Draw the circle, draw the circle wide. Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side. Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

**All: Draw the circle, draw the circle wide. Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side. Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still. Let this be our song: no one stands alone.
Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering/Offertory

*Doxology

Gladly we praise you and bless you, Creator, O God of life.

Christ, we adore you and thank you, Compassion of God, our light.

Great Holy Spirit, by you we are born from above.

Alleluia! Praise the God of blessing!

Alleluia! Bless the God of love!

*Prayer of Dedication

Joan Foster

Shepherd of love, transform these gifts into nourishment for a hungry world. May they offer shelter from the storms of life. May they bring kindness and compassion to the lost and the lonely. Transform us, even as you transform these gifts, that we might be your hands and feet in the world. Amen.

*Closing Hymn #428

“For the Healing of the Nations” Vs 1, 2 & 4

For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;

For a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;

To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word,

Help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,

That, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.

Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase,

Fear will die and hope increase.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;

For our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,

That by our response and service earth its destiny may find,

Earth its destiny may find.

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*Benediction

*On Eagle's Wings

**And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of God's hand.**



**Please consider an altar flower dedication to honor a loved one or a loved one's memory.
Please contact the church office for more information.**

Thank you for worshipping with PBUMC today! You make this gathering richer, brighter, and better by your participation. **All** are welcome at PBUMC!

PB UMC offers a three week "Belonging Class" for those who are interested in church membership and for others for who seek deeper involvement in the life of the church.

Our next Belonging Class session will be held on Sundays, January 28th, February 4th, and February 11th following church with a light lunch provided. If you are interested in attending or have other questions related to church membership, please contact Pastor Lori.

For pastoral support or spiritual conversation, please contact Pastor Lori at the church office or via the [website](#). Want to know what's happening at PB UMC? Sign up for our weekly emails! We have several different categories you can sign up for: there's the weekly news with a rundown of that week's sermon and events happening soon, a weekly email with prayer requests, a monthly email with a link to our Beach Breeze newsletter, as well as youth/Sunday school emails and memorial notifications.



Whether you'd like to sign up for one or sign up for all, visit <https://pbumc.flocknote.com/>!

To financially support the ministries of PBUMC in this community and beyond, please go to pbumc.org/give or scan the QR code.

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