



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 22, 2024**

**10:30 AM**



**Village Church**

FOLLOWING JESUS FOR LIFE

THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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# Approaching God in Praise and Prayer

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+All who are able may stand

*As you enter this holy space and sacred time, please quiet your mind, meditate on the Scriptures,  
and pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare you to worship the Living God.*

## PRELUDE

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Lloyd Larson  
Suzanne Shick, piano

## WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Jack W. Baca

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 40:9-11

Leader: Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up and do not fear;

**People: Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"**

Leader: See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

**People: He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

## + HYMN 147

**The First Nowell (verses 1-4)**

THE FIRST NOWELL

## + PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Janice Y. Cook

Almighty God, who sent a star to guide the Magi to the holy child Jesus: We confess that we have not followed the Light of your word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world, or trusted good news to be good. We have failed to praise your Son's birth, and refused his peace on earth. We have expected little, and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew in us all fine desires, so we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

## + MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

## + ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

## + RESPONSE: HYMN 117

**While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks**

WINCHESTER OLD

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.  
"All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;  
Good will to all from highest heaven begin and never cease!"

## + PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

The Haran Family

*At this time, children 5th grade and younger may meet their Sunday School leaders at the back of the Sanctuary.*

*Youth 6th grade and older are gathered in the Youth Room.*

## VILLAGE LIFE

### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

George Elijah McIntosh,  
son of David and Joanathan McIntosh

Elder Jan Caldwell, assisting

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## Offering Ourselves to God

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### OFFERTORY

*When Jesus Our Lord (from Christus)*

Felix Mendelssohn  
Calieanne Grossheim, soprano  
Juan Carlos Acosta, Malachi Marshall, Cole Tornberg, trio

### + RESPONSE: HYMN 143

**Angels, From the Realms of Glory**

REGENT SQUARE

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
You, who sang creation's story, no proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

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## Receiving God's Word

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### ANTHEM

*There Shall a Star from Jacob*

Felix Mendelssohn  
Chancel Choir  
Juan Carlos Acosta, director

### THE WORD READ

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-12 (NT pg. 4)

Bill Burch, lay reader

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### THE WORD PROCLAIMED

"Meeting Jesus for the First Time:  
The Foreigners"

The Rev. Dr. Jack W. Baca

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## Responding to God's Word

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### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Luke 1:68-75

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all who hate us; to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant, the oath which he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life.

+ HYMN 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (verses 1, 2, 3, 5)

CAROL

+ BENEDICTION

+ CHORAL BENEDICTION

*The Stranger's Guise*

Karen Marrolli

POSTLUDE

*Toccata on "Adeste Fideles"*

Page Long

The Deacon of the Day, Ron Dutt, can be found at the Welcome Table after service.

If you desire prayer, prayer ministers are available after worship. Please inquire at the Welcome Table.

*The cover art for today depicts the Three Magi  
and was created by Amanda Thompson with the assistance of AI.*

*This service is being livestreamed.*

### The Village Church Pastoral & Program Staff

The Rev. Dr. Jack W. Baca, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Janice Y. Cook, Interim Associate Pastor

Mary Thibodeau, Executive Administrator

Juan Carlos Acosta, Director of Worship Ministry

Adrian Narlock, Director of Media Ministry

Calieanne Grossheim, Asst. Director of Worship Ministry

Christine Hecker, Director of Youth Ministry

Twyla Arant, Music Ministries Coordinator

Michelle Yuen, Director of Children's Ministry

Barbara Haran, Contemporary Worship Team Leader

Nancy Betts, Director of Preschool Ministry

Phyllis Graham, Bell Choir Director

Gretchen Scruggs, Director of Missions Ministry

Suzanne Shick, Organist

Gustavo Coria, Facilities Manager



HONOR LOVED ONES WITH A  
BIBLE OR HYMNAL  
DEDICATION

SCAN QR CODE  
TO GIVE ONLINE



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### **When Jesus Christ Our Lord**

When Jesus our Lord was born in Bethlehem,  
in the land of Judaea, behold,  
from the East to the city of Jerusalem  
there came wise men, and said:

Say, where is he born, the king of Judaea?  
For we have seen his star, and are come to adore him.

### **There Shall a Star From Jacob**

There shall a star from Jacob come forth,  
and a sceptre from Israel rise up.  
And dash in pieces princes and nations.

As bright the star of morning gleams,  
so Jesus sheddeth glorious beams  
of light and consolation!

Thy Word, O Lord,  
Radiance darting, Truth imparting  
Gives salvation; Thine be praise and adoration.

### **The Stranger's Guise**

We saw a stranger yesterday,  
We put food in the eating place,  
drink in the drinking place,  
music in the listening place.

And with the sacred name of the Triune God,  
he blessed us and our house,  
our cattle and our dear ones.

As the lark says in her song:  
"Often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise"

