


**LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST**

**December 20, 2020
7th Sunday of Extended Advent**



Annunciation - Henry Ossawa Tanner (1897)

La Jolla United Methodist Church

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www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

Prelude: “Emmanuel Comes” Arr. Mark Hayes

Musician: Jennifer Lai

Welcome

Opening Music: “To a Maid Engaged to Joseph” UMH 215 vs. 1-2,6

Musicians: Jayson Coleman, Lisa Corpron, Jennifer Lai

1. To a maid engaged to Joseph, the angel Gabriel came.
“Fear not,” the angel told her, “I come to bring good news,
good news, I come to tell you,
good news, I say, good news.

2. “For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,
who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest,
You are most blest, most blessed,
God chose you, you are blest!”

6. As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words.
“Behold, I am your handmaid,” she said unto her God.
“So be it; I am ready
according to your word.”

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Advent Blessing - Lighting the Candle of Peace

We live on the brink every day. We stand on the threshold between this world and the next one. We live and move between the ordinary and divine, between the mundane and the mystery. Too often, we forget to look up and see the angels in our living room. We forget that the love we give and live is a sign of eternity, God with us, right now. We forget that we’re supposed to be getting ready.

Luke tells us that God’s favor came to a girl, an ordinary girl. It might have been you or your daughter; it might have been the girl down the street or your grandchild. But the messenger of God came and greeted her and said, “The Lord is with you.” What a gift and a promise: Emmanuel, God is with us.

We light these candles with peace in our hearts for the promise of proximity, the nearness of God. Even when we forget to listen, to lean into that presence, God is as close as our own breath. This, in a confused and confusing world, is a peace that passes all understanding. It is this peace that enables us to get ready.

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Message: “Confusion & Wonder”

Response to the Word

Confession, Assurance, and Peace

Liturgist: Savior God, shine upon us with your grace. We long to align ourselves with the proud and the mighty. Guide us to walk with those who are poor and weak. When we yearn for riches and glory, guide our hearts back to your thirst for justice and righteousness. Remember us with mercy. We desire to live as the household of faith you would have us be. Help us live according to your gospel and trust that all things are possible in your love. In Christ’s saving grace, we pray. Amen.

Pastor: Rejoice! God has looked with favor upon the powerless and the lowly. Christ has come to redeem us from our sin. The Spirit has strengthened us with the power of grace and love. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Liturgist: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory: “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Musicians: Jayson Coleman, Lisa Corpron, Jennifer Lai

Thanksgiving and Holy Communion

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Closing Music: “Blessed Be the God of Israel” UMH 209

Musicians: Jayson Coleman, Lisa Corpron, Jennifer Lai

1. Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.
2. Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

3. On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

Benediction

Postlude: "Angels From the Realms of Glory" Arr. Henry Smart

Musician: Jennifer Lai

LJUMC Ministry Team

Rev. Bob Rhodes, Lead Pastor; Rev. Lea Booth, Pastor of Discipleship;
Bob Wuertz, Music Ministries Director; Theresa Erb, Administrative Assistant;
Joyce Drozda, NS & Church Accountant; Emilio Valente, Information Technology Director;
Bridget Musante, NS Executive Director