

Glendale City Seventh-day Adventist Church



"FOR TO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY A SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD."

"A GLORIOUS INTERRUPTION"

DECEMBER 24, 2011

Order of Worship

10:50 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

(Please turn off all cell phones & pagers for the worship service)

Prelude "Christmas Medley" Duquessa McGuffin, *harp*

Entering of the Light & Crèche Figures

Call to Worship Cherise Gardner

When the world was dark and the city was quiet, you came. You crept in beside us.
And no one knew. Only the few who dared to believe that God might do something different.
Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?

Will you come into the darkness of today's world in which people have stopped believing
that war will end or that food will come or that a government will change or that the Church cares?

We ask this because the fullness our lives long for depends upon us being as open
and vulnerable to you as you were to us, when you came, wearing no more than diapers,
and trusting human hands to hold their Maker.

When the world was dark and the city was quiet you came.
You crept in beside us. Do the same this Christmas, Lord. Do the same today.

Opening Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" No. 142

Angels we have heard on high,
Singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

Refrain:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

See Him in a manger laid
Whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Greetings & Prayers of the Congregation Michael Quishenberry

Prayer Response *Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown when thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room for thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for thee.*

Call to Offering Dave Ferguson

Offertory "Silent Night" Duquessa McGuffin, *harp*

INTRODUCTION Alexis Mendizabal

Before we had anything to offer him, before we lifted our voices in praise or our hands to his work, before we opened a Bible or walked into a church building, in fact, even before we were ever created God was pursuing us with his love. His love was announced by a baby in a manger. His love was proven by his body on a cross. In this time, in this place, let us dwell on that love. Let us put aside thoughts of trees and presents and malls and meals and focus on God's pursuing love.

“A GLORIOUS INTERRUPTION”

PRENUPTIAL BLISS

Reader 1

Trent McRae

He was about to be married. He was nervous, yet his feet were far from cold. While he would never admit it, even to his closest friends, he dreamed of his life with his future bride. He dreamed they would laugh together. He dreamed of all the quirks, all the imperfections, all the things — only those who are married can experience. He knew his future wife was not just any woman. She was unique. She had a certain air and innocence that made his stomach flip. She was rare. His friends teased him that he “had it bad.” Yet their teasing just served to make her all the more real to him. She was different. He was going to be married. He wanted to married. The wedding was just around the corner.

Reader 2

Jaime Quishenberry

Across town was his future wife. She was pondering how her life was about to be so radically changed. After all, she had been dreaming about her wedding since she was a little girl. As a child, she dreamed of being a princess, and every princess has a prince. Her prince would be handsome and strong and would sweep her off her feet. Yet as she grew older, she no longer dreamed of a prince, just a husband who looked and acted like one. Her future husband was exceptional, not in stature and position, but in character. She had worked hard to find out everything about him. And she loved what she had found. He was extraordinary; not because he was strong or even very handsome, but because he was a man who worked hard to do the right things, but never lost himself or his God in the process. He was different in the best sense of the word. She was going to be married. She wanted to be married. The wedding was just around the corner.

Choral Response

**It was in the midst of their readiness,
that their hopes and dreams were, to say the very least ... interrupted.**

Narrator

Vivian Lee Posner

*God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin... The virgin's name was Mary.
The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you...
you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.
He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. Luke 1:26-32 (TNIV)*

Anthem

“I Saw Three Ships”

arr. Mack Wilberg

HEARTBREAK & HOPE

Reader 1

Trent McRae

He was informed that his wife-to-be ... was pregnant. Pregnant. The mere word left him stunned, feeling nothing, feeling everything. With one word, his dreams for his life, his whole life, would forever be changed. He knew the baby could not be his own. They had never slept together. How could she do this to him? How could she appear to be one thing, and be so tragically another? Who was this man? Who was the man who had swept her off her feet? How could she have done this? Had she been violated? He could imagine evil in a man, much more than he could imagine evil in her. Despite his pain, it never crossed his mind she might run away with the man who had robbed him of his hope. What was he going to do?

Reader 2

Jaime Quishenberry

Everyone in their lives knew they were soon to be married. He didn't have the luxury of time. He would have to do something soon, really soon. Where would he even start? Should he tell his parents first? Should he tell his best friend? Who should know? Who definitely should not? His love for her was the first thing to regain consciousness. He didn't know if her pain was self-inflicted, he just knew she must be hurting. He loathed the thought of her hurting. He hated the idea of her reputation being swept away in one sentence. He hated the idea of the humiliation that was certain to come. The image of her crying was an image he kept trying to physically shake out of his head. His heart was hurt, but his character was not. He was angry, but he would not be cruel. He would as secretly and as simply as possible, just let her go. He would deal with his own pain, without adding to hers.

Choral Response

**What would happen next would change his life forever.
What would happen next would change the world forever.
They were in the middle of a Glorious Interruption.**

Narrator

Vivian Lee Posner

An angel of the Lord appeared to [Joseph] in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:20-21 (TNIV)

Congregational Hymn

“What Child Is This?”

No. 141

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own Him,
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

GLORIOUS RENEWAL

Reader 1

Trent McRae

At night Joseph would lay his head on his pillow, wondering if he would ever completely recover. He felt as if his dreams of a wife and family were, forever, over. While he was trying to figure a way out, he had a dream. God's angel spoke in the dream: “Joseph, don't hesitate to get married. Mary's pregnancy is Spirit-conceived. God's Holy Spirit has made her pregnant. She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus—‘God saves’—because He will save His people from their sins.”

Reader 2

Jaime Quishenberry

He sat up in bed. From head to toe, his body tried to take it all in. He knew his dream was too vivid, too clear, to be just a dream. It was much more. It was real. He started to understand that her pregnancy wasn't scandalous; it was glorious beyond imagination! The baby she carried was from God. The baby she carried was the King they had all been waiting for. In the most unorthodox way, his dream of being married was restored. His wife was pregnant with the Messiah.

Choral Response

**This was news no man could possibly comprehend.
Yet somehow, he knew that his life had been Gloriously Interrupted.**

Narrator

Vivian Lee Posner

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. Luke 2:1, 4-5 (TNIV)

Children’s Choir

“Come, Come Emmanuel”
 Shelby Mumford, Jamie Quishenberry, *bells*
 “Will You Be Ready?”
 Kelsey Mumford, *soloist*

*Baley/Mayo**Patterson***THE SAVIOR’S ARRIVAL****Reader 1**

As much as possible, he composed himself and went to Mary. When they saw each other, the glance he had dreamed of was already there. Yes, “this” had indeed happened. They were getting married, she was carrying a baby that was not his own. However, they knew what no one else knew: God was using their tiny world to create a glorious global interruption. But life still had its road bumps; before them was an amazingly difficult task. They were to travel to Joseph’s homeland to be counted. As they traveled, their conversation was strained. Yet there was a surreal knowledge that they didn’t have to figure it all out. They just had to take the next step.

Trent McRae**Reader 2**

When they finally arrived, they were completely exhausted. They both desperately needed to rest. Yet all the things Joseph wanted for his wife and baby ... were unavailable. They would regrettably have to stay the night in conditions fit only for an animal. Yet there they were, and his pride took it amazingly well. His heart was purely focused on the ones he now loved the most. No man had ever felt more like a real father than he did in that moment. He had been entrusted to marry the mother who had been found fit, to carry God’s baby boy. He was entrusted to father the Creator of the universe. Mary, exhausted from childbirth, lay back as Joseph handed Jesus to her. Mary and Joseph had just experienced something even more miraculous than the birth of a child. They held the Savior of the world in their arms.

Jaime Quishenberry**Narrator**

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.
Luke 2:6-11(TNIV)

Vivian Lee Posner

Choral Response **The birth of Jesus, gloriously interrupted Mary and Joseph’s plan for their marriage, and that same baby, later gave up his life to gloriously interrupt ... ours.**

Solo

“Mary, Did You Know”
 Jesse Martin, *baritone*

*M. Mowry and B. Green***Narrator**

Have you ever noticed it’s often the little things in life that are most important? Think about it. Is there anything more annoying than getting a tiny pebble in your shoe or losing your keys? But little things can be the best things, too. Have you ever been having a really bad day, and then someone you’d never expect just smiles at you? Such a small thing, but it can mean so much when you need it the most.

Vivian Lee Posner**Elizabeth, Mary’s Cousin**

Have you ever dreamed of having something that’s really important to you, but it would seem like just a small thing to anyone else? So you keep your dream a secret, something special to think about at night as you drift off to sleep. But what if that dream is something you can never have? All I ever wanted was one child. I would look around at my neighbors with five or six children apiece and I would pray, “Lord, I only want one! Is that asking too much?” And then God told us we would have a son! He said to name him “John,” and that he would make people ready for the coming of the Lord ... the Messiah! That is another dream, not just of myself but of our people. For hundreds of years we’ve waited for a Savior. That may sound like a small dream to you, but we are a small people. Now I wonder ... what kind of child will my son be? What kind of child will the Messiah be?

Ellee Posner**Innkeeper’s Wife**

Did you ever hear the story of the city mouse and the country mouse? Remember how they traded places and, at first, life seemed grand? But it didn’t take long for both of them to decide they liked it better at home. I guess I’m a country mouse. Oh, I live in town, but on the very outskirts. And it’s a small town. “Bethlehem” is its name. Some people don’t like small towns. They say nothing exciting ever happens. But we had some excitement around here tonight, let me tell you! My husband and I run this inn and we’ve been overrun with lodgers the past few days. Well, after we’d rented the last room, along came this young couple. She was not only expecting a baby; she was already in labor! There were no other rooms in town, and I couldn’t just turn them away. The best I could do was to make a nice bed of straw for her in the stable. I’m going back to check on her right now. But since it’s her first time, I expect it’ll still be several hours before— [*sound of baby’s cry offstage*] Oh! Oh! It’s come! So much excitement in such a small town!

Shelby Mumford**Anthem**

“Christmas Lullaby”

*John Rutter***Magi 1–Melchior**

My name is Melchior. Don’t feel embarrassed if you have trouble with my name. I’m a long way from home. A very long way. My friends and I arrived in Bethlehem yesterday. I was so glad to get off that camel. Have you ever ridden a camel? I rode mine for hundreds of miles. Whew! He smelled bad. He had a bad temper. I’m getting a mule for the ride home. We followed a star to find the child. Does that seem strange to you? Just leaving home and following a star, believing that someone important has been born beneath it? It still does to me, but life can sometimes be very strange indeed. For example, I think it is strange that a child who will grow to be such a great king was born in a stable. Ugh. It smelled worse than my camel in there. Please understand. I mean no disrespect. I know in my heart that the child was sent by God to be ruler of us all. That is why I brought him gold, a symbol of kingship on earth. It may be awhile before he gets to use it, of course. But perhaps his parents will give him some when he is a little older. An allowance for the growing king.

Ryan Rabello**Magi 2–Caspar**

My name is Caspar. Don’t mind my friend Melchior. He’s just feeling crabby. It can be hard visiting a foreign land. The food is different. We can’t just eat the things we’re used to. The language is different. We have trouble understanding what people are saying and they have trouble understanding us. We are strangers in Bethlehem. But there are thousands of strangers in Bethlehem now. Because of the census. So crowded. So many soldiers. You might feel crabby like Melchior if you had to visit such a place. But I am glad. So very glad that I came and saw the child. The stars are messages in the sky above, and they do not lie. The child will teach us about God. He will be a great priest. That is why I brought him frankincense. Where I come from, priests burn it, and the smoke is considered holy. My heart is full of hope and joy for this tiny priest. The world is troubled. Too many wars. Too many hungry people in the streets. I think we truly need to learn more about God.

Kristoffer Wahagheghe**Magi 3–Balthasar**

My name is Balthasar. I’m also glad that I came all this way to see the child. But something surprising happened. When I first looked at that infant asleep in the straw, I was filled with joy. But then I felt sad. Seeing him made me think of my new granddaughter back home. You see, it’s the children who will lead us into the future. So we need to care for our children. And I can’t do that for my granddaughter from so far away. I hope she’s all right. And I hope that the new king I visited in the manger will be all right. Such a little child. So helpless looking. How can one so small be the hope of the world? It seems unfair to pile our needs and dreams on such tiny shoulders. I gave the child myrrh. It is an oil rubbed on the bodies of the dead to honor the life that has ended. Myrrh is expensive. And it may seem like a strange birthday present. But I believe this child will be a great king. A great priest. A great teacher. And when he is done, he will deserve to be anointed in that precious oil.

Paul Brando Chilopoulos**Congregational Hymn**

“We Three Kings”

No. 137

We three kings of Orient are;
 Bearing gifts we traverse afar
 Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
 Following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,
 Star with royal beauty bright,
 Westward leading, still proceeding,
 Guide us to Thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold Him arise,
 King and God and sacrifice;
 Alleluia, Alleluia!
 Sounds through the earth and skies.

Narrator

Small things. They can make all the difference.

Vivian Lee Posner

Anna the Prophetess

You'll never guess what happened at the temple today. I was there when he came. The Messiah! Simeon and I had waited our whole lives for that moment. I'm eighty-four years old and today I saw the Messiah — as a little baby! God's promise fulfilled in such a tiny little life. I don't know. You wait all your life for something wonderful to happen, then when it does you're still amazed and surprised. It's all so unexpected. But that's what God's like. I mean if you could predict how he was going to do things he wouldn't be God, would he? Such a small thing he was. Finally, our deliverer has come. He is here, and nothing will be the same.

Kiera Quishenberry

Innkeeper's Wife

The light of just one candle can drive away the darkness.

Three Kings

A single bright star can lead the way to the adventure of a lifetime!

Elizabeth

One face, one tiny face, can be the sweetest sight in the world if it's the face of the one you love.

Readers

A single glorious interruption changed the course of earth's history.

Narrator

Who would think that our huge God would perform His greatest act in the history of mankind with such a little thing? Who would believe the biggest gift of all time would come through the birth of one, small Child? Thank God for such a glorious interruption in our lives, thank God for Jesus.

Vivian Lee Posner

Closing Hymn

“Good Christians, Now Rejoice”

No. 136

Good Christians, now rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow,
And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!

Good Christians, now rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath ope'd the heav'nly door,
And we are blessed for evermore.
Christ was born for this!

Good Christians, now rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!

Postlude

“Symphony V–Toccata”

Charles Marie Widor

City Church Announcements

*“All are welcome — whoever you are, whatever your journey or background.
God excludes no one, and neither do we.”*

Today's flowers are given to City Church Family, wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas, from the Abaro family!

The Glendale City Church staff wish each of you the blessings of this Christmas season, and pray for God's continued guidance on your life throughout the coming year. Please be sure to let us know how we can better serve your needs in the months ahead.

Sabbath School for Children and Youth will combine Children and Youth classes and meet in the Youth Room.

Young Adults' Fellowship. We will be on vacation for the holidays! Enjoy your holidays. Fellowship will resume in the New Year!

Lit Knitters Aimee, Anna, Carol, Denise, Patty, and Rosalyn had a most enjoyable time discussing the book and working on crafts. Thanks to Aimee for setting a lovely French table and special thanks to Patty who baked *gâteau de noyer* (walnut tart) that was featured in the book! **Our next meeting will be Sunday, January 8, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.** to discuss *A Year in Provence* by Peter Mayle. Please email Didi (dmumford1@aol.com) with any questions.

We are now able to offer **secure online giving** for any cause, whether to your **regular weekly giving** or a **special project of your choosing**. Just visit the Church's website, www.glendalecitysda.org and find “Online Giving” in the right side menu. Then simply click on the link that says “Donate to Glendale City Church Here.” Once you're set up the first time, you can easily return at any future date.

“God in the 66” Bible study meets Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m. in the Council Room.

The Glendale Pathfinders are providing seats at the Rose Parade; however our bus is almost full! If you would like transportation to and from Glendale, a hot breakfast and wonderful seat on the parade route this is for you. This years donation is \$80 per person. Please contact Warren Dale at 818-384-2820 if you are interested in joining us.

Do you have any information or recollection of the time when **Pastor Jesse C. Stevens** was senior pastor at Glendale City (1931-1936)? A relative would appreciate any information on family members, including names and contact information for the grandchildren.

Gentleman looking for a room to rent in the Glendale, Eagle Rock or Burbank area, \$500. Contact Norman, 310-591-7480.

We cannot always fit all announcements in the bulletin. Please sign up for our e-Newsletter to keep up with the latest events! www.glendalecitysda.org

Upcoming Sermons & Events

Elder of the Day
December 31
January 7, 2012

Michael Quishenberry
Smuts van Rooyen
Smuts van Rooyen

Sunset tonight – 4:47 p.m. Sunset next Friday – 4:52 p.m.

Church Directory

Pastoral Staff: Smuts van Rooyen, Senior Pastor • Cherise Gardner, Family & Children's Ministries
• Leif Lind, Church Administrator

Hovik Sarrafian, Armenian Senior Pastor • Vartkes Azadian, Armenian Associate Pastor

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m; Friday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

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