

City Church Announcements

Flowers. Today's flowers are given in honor of Warren Dale's birthday from his family.

Poinsettias. Please feel free to take a poinsettia plant home to your loved one, or a shut in.

Display Case. The display case in the Narthex this week exhibits some memorabilia from Dr. Elke Rechberger.

Holiday Bags. These are available in the Narthex after the worship service. We ask for a \$4.00 donation per bag. These are great for families and children during Christmas.

Pathfinders' Rose Parade. This is a great Christmas present. Space is limited so book NOW. The cost is \$65 per person. Call Warren Dale, 818-384-2820 for reservations.

Delegates. We need 7 delegates for the 62nd Constituency Session of the Southern California Conference, which will convene on May 20, 2007, at 7:55 a.m., in the White Memorial Church. If you are interested please contact the church office or speak with one of the pastors.

Sabbath School Options

<u>Class</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Symbols/Leaders</u>
Beginners	0-3 yrs	Room 3	Elephant
Kindergarten	3-5 yrs	Room 4	Giraffe
Primary	6-9	Room 2	Eagle
Junior	10-13 yrs	Room 1	Lion
Teen	14-18 yrs	Room 10b	Fish
Open Door	19-99 yrs	Youth Center	
Armenian	General	Room 11	
Romanian	General	Room 13	
Pastor	General	Fellowship Hall	Mitchell Henson
SS Quarterly	General	Chapel	

Church Directory

Pastors

Senior Pastor Mitchell Henson

Children & Family Pastor Denise Kasischke

Pastor of the Parish Michael Quishenberry

Armenian Congregation Hovik Sarrafian, Vartkes Azadian

Officers

Head Elder

Douglas Schultz

Head Deacon

Head Deaconess

Eleanor Posner

Church Board Chair

Terry Bork

Sanctuary Choir Director

Brenda Mohr

Organist

Kemp Smeal

Children's Choir Director

Lissie Quishenberry

Bell Choir Director

Ariel Quintana

Secretary

Victoria Lucero

Treasurer

Dean Vendouris

Church Clerk

Mindi Rüb

A+ School Principal

Jeanie Drake

Pathfinder Leader

Warren Dale

One Hundred Years of Grace



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

"THE SERVICE OF NATIVITY"

DECEMBER 23, 2006

Glendale City SDA Church

Order of Worship

10:45 am – 12:10 pm

Prelude	“O Holy Night” Monique McGuffin, <i>harp</i> ; Duquessa McGuffin, <i>violin</i>	<i>A. Adam</i>
	“It Came upon a Midnight Clear” Monique McGuffin, <i>harp solo</i>	<i>R. Willis</i>
Call to Worship	We have gathered to worship; to listen to covenant to praise your name to remember our heritage to celebrate our destiny. Oh God, we joyfully receive your grace.	Denise Kasischke
Entering of the Light		Paul Brando & Jonas Chilopoulos
Opening Hymn	“Angels We Have Heard on High”	No. 142
Gifts of the Congregation		Michael Quishenberry
Greeting & Prayers of the Congregation		Denise Kasischke
Prayer Response	<i>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear, oh hear us when we pray, Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear, oh hear us when we pray.</i>	
Call to Offering		The Chilopoulos Family
Offertory	“Silent Night” Monique McGuffin, <i>harp</i> ; Duquessa McGuffin, <i>violin</i>	<i>F. Gruber</i>
Introduction		Denise Kasischke
	>Welcome to our Service of the Nativity. We begin a journey that will follow Jesus through this church year. We have watched and waited these past four weeks of Advent, anticipating the Coming of the Christ. And now our wait is over as we celebrate the birth of the Christ-child. But even as we celebrate today a new act of God in history, we realize that this is not the end of our journey. It is only the beginning. There is much yet to come. And much to do. But here today, we come before God in praise and celebration, because of the newness and possibility that God has brought to us in the birth of this Child.	
Children’s Sermon		Denise Kasischke

“THE SERVICE OF THE NATIVITY”

Leader

The Nativity brings together Mary, Joseph, the Christ Child, the Shepherds, and the Angels. And even though the wise men probably did not appear at the manger, they are an integral part of the Christmas story. And so we include them in the scene in order to tell the story of the birth of Jesus the Christ.

The Nativity is a visual proclamation of the Christmas story. Each piece of the Nativity unfolds the story of Christ’s birth. As in the day of Jesus’ birth, so today his coming brings joy and hope to many. It is a pictorial statement of faith, a uniquely Christian symbol of what we believe about God and His revelation of Himself in our world. In placing the Nativity in our yards and on our mantels we are declaring our hope in the God who invaded human history. In so doing He revealed Himself to humanity, expressing the reach of His love as He chose to walk along side those whom He created in His own image.

So, we have placed a Nativity in the front of our Church. It declares to those who attend that we have a wonderful story to tell. That story is how the Creator God became one with those He formed. It is a story of hope because God built a bridge of Divine Love from Himself to us. It is a story that shines through the birth of every child and resonates in the supportive ties of every family.

Today we begin Christmas with this Service of the Nativity. Through it we will again tell our story.

Congregational Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

No. 115

O come, O come, Immanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.

Mary's Story

Leader

It all began some time ago when Mary and Joseph were making wedding plans. They dreamed of their future together. The love that united them seemed indestructible. Then, unexpectedly, Mary was encountered by a heavenly visitor.

Reader

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you."

But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and pondered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever and of His Kingdom there will be no end."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have not known a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be the Son of God. . . . For with God nothing will be impossible."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. —*Luke 1:26-38*

Special Song

"Mary Did You Know?"
Susan Mills, *vocal solo*; R.J. Mills, *guitar*

Lowry and Greene

Joseph's Story

Reader

Michael Quishenberry

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, intended to put her away secretly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. —*Matthew 1:18-25*

Special Song

"How Could it Be? (Joseph's Song)"
D. J. Pick, *vocal solo*

M. Card

Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem

Leader

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So everyone went to their own towns to be registered. And Joseph also went, out of the city of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David. He went to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was expecting a child. —*Luke 2:1-5*

It was a crowded city that night, Bethlehem, the city of David. People from all over had returned to the city of their fathers. Here they would register and a census would be taken. Joseph and Mary sought for a place to stay. An inn. A room somewhere, anywhere. A safe place from the chilly night air. But there was no place, no room in the inn. At the city's edge was a stable, a place where animals could be protected and fed. There, in a stable, Mary and Joseph found warmth and protection. They would stay here until a new day brought light.

Congregational Hymn

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

No. 135

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

The Birth of Jesus

Reader

Matthew Nunez

So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, wrapped Him in bands of cloth, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. —*Luke 2:6-7*

Congregational Hymn

"Away In A Manger"

No. 124

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky,
And stay by my side till the morning is nigh.

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.

God Is with Us

Leader

All this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, “A young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.” —*Matthew 1:22-23*

Anthem

“What Child Is This?”

arr. Parker/Shaw

The Shepherds’ Story

Reader

Niki Quintanilla

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy for all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Child wrapped in bands of cloth, 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, and on earth peace, good will among all people!” So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they came quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the Child, who was lying in a manger. —*Luke 2:8-16*

Congregational Hymn

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

No. 139

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

“Fear not!” said he — for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind — “Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
To you and all mankind.

“To you, in David’s town this day,
Is born of David’s line, The Savior who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:

“The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed, All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.”

“All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace; Good will henceforth from heaven to men,
Begin and never cease!”

The Magi’s Story

Reader

Dean Vendouris

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had called together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; For from you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and determined from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and pay him homage also.”

When they had heard the king, they departed; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it came and stood over where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had entered the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and fell down and paid him homage. Then opening their treasure chests, they presented to him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. —*Matthew 2:1-12*

Special Song

“The Birthday of a King”
Jesse Martin, *vocal solo*

W. H. Neidlinger

We Gather at the Manger

Heaven looked down on that Holy Night as a manger became an altar and a stable became a cathedral. History now looks back to that moment in time when God came in Jesus to reveal Himself to people everywhere. The humble shepherds were there. The Wise Men bowed before Him. And today you and I join them as we gather around the manger. What a night! A Holy Night! A night of hope for today and tomorrow.

Receiving the gifts of the Christ child.

Anthem

“O Holy Night”

arr. D. Buck

Closing Prayer

adapted from *The Book of Common Prayer*

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light. You have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him to reveal to us your glory and grace. As you have given this gift in love, may we receive it with joy. Grant that we, your children by adoption and grace may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit. Grant us, we pray, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also reflect that light to a darkened world; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prelude

“Symphony V–Toccatà”

Widor