

*Laguna Niguel Presbyterian Church*

*Christmas Eve • December 24, 2009 • 10 pm*

*Worship & Candlelight Celebration*

# *Worship & Candlelight Celebration*

## MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*O Holy God, as you came into the stillness of night, enter our lives this night.  
Overcome darkness with the light of Christ's presence, so that we may clearly see the  
way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for him, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## PRELUDE

*Sheep May Safely Graze*  
Suk Choi, Organ & Ann Steele, Obo

by J.S. Bach

## PRELUDE OF CAROLS

*Los Peces En El Rio*

Chris Green & Andrew Green, Duet

TRADITIONAL

*Mary's Little Boy Child*

Judy Ruddiman, Soloist

by Jester Hairston

## WELCOME

Dr. Randy Steele

## \*PROCESSIONAL CAROL #173 (vs. 1, 2)

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Congregation  
ADESTE FIDELES

## \*INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Rev. Emily McColl

Leader: Tonight old dreams die and new dreams come to life. The Promise is fulfilled!

People: *Tonight, hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation!*

Leader: Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies; swaddling clothes hold the warmth of parental love; animals and shepherds crowd in tight while a muffled cry squeezes out to greet the world.

People: *Tonight we give thanks for every child among us. Each new birth, regardless of circumstances, reminds us of the preciousness of life, the potential of tomorrow, the promise of God.*

Leader: Our candles illuminate our story. Dawn invades midnight. The Light of the world has come!

People: *This light is a light for all. It ignites a flame within our souls and warms us from within. It radiates love with the presence of God-come-alive in human flesh within us and among us.*

All: *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all!*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

## CHORAL RESPONSE

*Light Your World*

Chancel Choir  
arr. Russell Mauldin

*\*Those that are able please stand.*

*Please silence your cell phone prior to entering the sanctuary.*

*CHRISTMAS PRAYER OF ADORATION (In Unison)*

Dr. Randy Steele

*O Holy God, we hear the story of shepherds and Magi, of maiden and carpenter, of prophets and angels, and we, too, come to Bethlehem for a blessing. You are born in our hearts because you have chosen the weakness of our bodies for your birth. We are filled with love because you have taken upon yourself our humanity. We are filled with hope because you have offered us your Spirit, your life and your light. We are filled with faith because all that is meek, lowly and humble in us becomes holy this night. Our salvation has come into this holy time and we say together, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all." Amen.*

*CHORAL RESPONSE*

*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*

Chancel Choir  
by Howard Helvey

*CHRISTMAS OFFERING AND PRAYER*

Rev. Emily McColl

*OFFERTORY MUSIC*

*O Holy Night*

Carrie Lee, Soloist  
by Adolphe C. Adam

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY

*The Prophecy* (Isaiah 9:2, 6-7)

Congregational Carol:

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* (vs. 1, 3)

Dr. Randy Steele  
Hymnal #170  
by Richard S. Willis

*The Prediction* (Micah 5:2-5a)

Congregational Carol:

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* (vs. 1)

Rev. Emily McColl  
Hymnal #155  
by Lewis Redner

*The Announcement to Mary* (Luke 1:26-38)

Choral Carol:

*Mary Did You Know?*

Carol Stocksdale, Soloist

Dr. Randy Steele  
by Lowry and Greene

*The Birth* (Luke 2:1-7)

Congregational Carol:

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* (vs. 1)

Rev. Emily McColl  
Hymnal #156  
PIAE CANTIONES

*The Announcement to the People* (Luke 2:8-20)

Congregational Carol:

*Angels We Have Heard on High* (vs. 1, 3)

Dr. Randy Steele  
Hymnal #152  
Traditional French Carol

*The Response of the Wise Men* (Matthew 2:1-11)

Choral and Congregational Carol:

*He is Born, the Divine Christ Child* (vs. 1, 3)

Rev. Emily McColl  
Hymnal #177  
Traditional French Carol

*"The Source of Light and Life"*

From Bethlehem's manger comes the most remarkable claim. The Gospel writer John tells us that as the Son was with the Father and the Spirit at creation, shoving aside the darkness to bring light, so is he the source of light in your life and the light of the world who brings creative hope into every dark moment.

*\*THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE*

Rev. Emily McColl

Leader: Arise, shine, for our light has come and the glory of the Lord has shone around us.

People: *The Lord will be our everlasting light and God will be our glory.*

Leader: Now the prophecies are fulfilled; the light of the Most High has risen in our world.

People: *The Light has come to us and unto us is born a Savior!*

*\*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL #146 (vs. 1, 4)**Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come*

ANTIOCH

*\*CHRISTMAS BLESSING*

Dr. Randy Steele

*\*THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES*

As we sing "Silent Night," the lights will be dimmed. An usher will then light the candle of the first worshiper in each row from the Christ Candle in order to pass the light of Christ from person to person. *(To avoid spilling hot wax, please keep your lit candle upright allowing the person next to you to light his or her candle.)* We hold our candles high on the 3<sup>rd</sup> verse so that the light we have received may be seen from afar. As our candles are a sea of light lit from the one Light of Christ, so may we reflect Christ's light and love in the world.

*\*CAROL OF RESPONSE*Chancel Choir and Congregation  
by Franz Gruber*Silent Night! Holy Night!* (vs. 1-4)

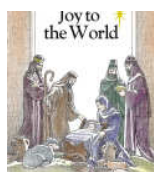
*Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright,  
'Round yon virgin mother and Child,  
Holy infant so tender and mild;  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born  
Christ the Savior is born.*

*Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light,  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

*Silent night! Holy Night!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Savior is born.*

(Following the singing of Silent Night, the ushers will dismiss you by rows.)



*May the peace and joy of this Christmas night go with you!*