



Sunday, December 1, 2024  
First Sunday of Advent

### GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" arr. Thomas Helmore

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. David Watermulder

CALL TO WORSHIP The Wiebracht Family (Michelle, Ben, James, and Eva)

Reader: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah".

**People: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.**

Leader: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God's kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

HYMN "The Candle of Hope (O Worship The King)" by Carolyn Gillette

PRAYER of CONFESSION & ASSURANCE of PARDON Rev. Erica Rader

**Redeeming God, we confess that waiting is difficult for us. We want to be comfortable in this festive season, but life keeps us anxious and unhappy. We complain about our own troubles and close our eyes to the suffering of others. Forgive us for ignoring truths we do not want to see. Forgive us for seeking our own comfort at the cost of others. Give us eyes to perceive the great need within our community. Give us to see the deep need within our own lives. Turn our hearts to you again and again. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE #384 "Soon and Very Soon" SOON AND VERY SOON

PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Erica Rader

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Erica Rader

### PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION



**Keep in Your Prayers:** Family of Vickie Showman. Family of Mardie Dailey. Carolyn Randall on the passing of her daughter. David Moriarty's father, in the hospital this week. Kim Dellevet on the passing of her father. GFP assistant director Vanessa's mom Elvira health concerns. Pastor Erica's mother Karen. Micheal Taylor after the loss of his brother Monte. Tom Smith as he cares for Mildred in memory care. Gigi McNulty. Lisa McKibbin's daughter Addie. Kristy Cole. Emily Barrett. Joan and Willis Brown. The Bierly/Shaw families. Julie Clausen's cousin Tyler. Rachel Larsen. Jeff Yergler. Tony Bayne. Gail Myers. Shirley Swallow. Sharon LeClaire. Judy Momrow. Barbara Snyder's daughter, Terry. Rosemary Will. Susan Cherne and family.

**Advent Craft Faire** Please join us today for our annual Advent Craft Faire! Crafts and activities will be held in the children's wings from 4-5:30pm. Supper will be served at 5:30pm with seating available in the Fireside Room and Social Hall. We hope to see you at this wonderful intergenerational event.

**Thank you for joining us for Worship in the Social Hall!** Our Sanctuary building is currently being refurbished and remodeled, so we are temporarily holding our worship services in the Social Hall. We will keep you updated on construction progress and plans as things move forward. Thank you for your flexibility!

**Theology on Tap** Tuesday, Dec. 3 from 7-9 p.m. at Hapa's Brewing Company (114 S Santa Cruz Ave, Los Gatos). Please join Pastor Dave and others there for a theological discussion over a frosty beverage. 21+

**Blue Christmas Service** Wednesday December 4, 7:00 p.m. If you are entering into the season with a weary or hurting heart please join us for our annual Blue Christmas service. We gather to remember that Jesus accompanies us through all things, in all seasons. The service will be filled with Scripture, beautiful music, reflections, prayers, and candles of remembrance.

**Archaeology and the Bible:** Dr. Hunt is presenting the final part of his Archeology and the Bible series, focusing on the New Testament. Dr. Hunt is an expert in his field, a best-selling author and a real-life Indiana Jones figure! Join us after worship on December 8th for this exciting series. Light lunch will be provided. Dr. Hunt's books will be available for purchase.

**Mission Committee** - Spreading Christmas Joy once again PCLG would like to bless our working brothers and sisters at Bridge Communities in East San Jose. This Christmas we will be providing 80 families with a \$100 Amazon Gift Card. You can help provide these blessings by donating, in any amount, towards our goal. There are three ways to participate: (1) On-line through the PCLG giving website (scroll to "Mission" and put "Christmas Gift Card" in the memo box). The QR code below will take you to the website; (2) By check or cash in the weekly offering (with "Christmas Gift Card" in the memo line); (3) At the Mission Committee room at the Advent Craft Faire.



### **Christmas Tea: Ticket Sales End Today**

Today is your last chance to get a ticket to the Christmas Tea, so if you'd like to have yourself a merry little party with PCLG friends, stop by our table during coffee hour after the service. Tickets are \$25 each, cash or check.

This year's Tea will be held this coming Thursday, Dec. 5, at noon, at Congregation Shir Hadash, our neighbor on Cherry Blossom Lane. The always-festive event will feature the Mountain View High School Madrigal Choir, light lunch fare, and an array of delicious homemade cookies. Volunteers are needed, so if you'd like to bake cookies or help out, please go to [pclg.org](http://pclg.org) and click on Volunteer & Sign Up. Most of our proceeds will go to two organizations: PCLG's Sophia's Layette and Abrahamic Alliance International, a service organization that brings Christians, Jews and Muslims together. The Tea is sponsored by PCLG's Presbyterian Women, and all PCLG'ers and their guests -- both women *and* men -- are welcome.

**The mission committee** would like to invite you to volunteer at Martha's Kitchen on December 4 from 3:15-5:15 for the indoor dining service for our neighbors in need. Any questions? E-mail [peggy.heath@gmail.com](mailto:peggy.heath@gmail.com). Ready to sign up? Use the URL below: [https://marthaskitchen.galaxydigital.com/user/login/?return=/need/detail/?need\\_id=951924](https://marthaskitchen.galaxydigital.com/user/login/?return=/need/detail/?need_id=951924). *Day-of instructions:* Wear closed-toed shoes and a hat. If you can, please park on the street due to limited spaces in our shared parking lot. Enter through the office doors past the muraled cold box on the side of Martha's Kitchen. You will be greeted by staff and walked through the check-in process.

**Front Door Communities** Front Door Communities Sleeping Bag Drive: Do you have 1 or 2 sleeping bags that are no longer being used? Please bring your sleeping bags to the church office or to the Advent Craft Faire on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank You!! Questions? Call Jeff Thompson 408-455-2784.

**Would you like to read the scripture in church?** Each week, we have a different person read the scripture during the worship service. If you are interested in doing this, please contact Mary Jane Humphrey, [maryjhumphrey@comcast.net](mailto:maryjhumphrey@comcast.net).

**Come Sing With Us** Join the Choir for Advent! If you love music and sharing your gifts with others, come join the Choir for the weeks leading up to Christmas. Rehearsals are on Thursday nights at 7pm. For information contact Michael Taylor at [michael.taylor@pclg.org](mailto:michael.taylor@pclg.org).

**Sunday School Volunteers** We are blessed with a growing Children's Ministries program and we are looking for more volunteers to fill our classrooms. If you are interested in being a loving adult in the lives of the children of our church, please contact Erin Heath, Children's Ministries Director, at [erin.heath@pclg.org](mailto:erin.heath@pclg.org).

**Parent's Day Out, December** 14th, 1-4pm. Let me take care of your kids while you finish up your Christmas to do list! Please RSVP to [erin.heath@pclg.org](mailto:erin.heath@pclg.org) by December 11th.

**Pastor's Bible Study** Join Pastor Dave for a mid-week study each Wednesday at 2 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

**Nursery Caretaker-** Children's Ministries is in need of a regular nursery caretaker on Sunday mornings from 9:30-11:30am. This is a paid position with an opportunity for additional hours during special events. If you know anyone who is interested, please have them contact Erin Heath at [erin.heath@pclg.org](mailto:erin.heath@pclg.org).

**WOW** The weekly drop in Bible study for all the women of PCLG (called WOW) meets Thursday mornings from 10 am to 11:30 in the Fireside Room and always welcomes new friends, so contact Julie Lasher at 408/656-8419 or [JHLasher01@gmail.com](mailto:JHLasher01@gmail.com) for info on our in-person meetings.

**Stephen Ministry** Have you lost someone close to you this year? We can remember them and light a candle for them on Dec 4, 2024 at our Blue Christmas service. Do your family holiday gatherings resemble a Norman Rockwell painting? Maybe, maybe not... Are current events stealing your peace? Stephen Ministry provides a supportive listener to offer you encouragement, not advice. They will meet with you confidentially for an hour each week to allow you to talk out whatever is weighing on you. [stephen.ministry@pclg.org](mailto:stephen.ministry@pclg.org) PCLG dedicated Stephen Ministry phone line 669-240-0857

**The Worship Band** is happy to welcome any musicians who enjoy playing guitar, bass, drums or singing. Please feel free to contact [Rita@pclg.org](mailto:Rita@pclg.org) for more information. Or find me on a Sunday morning. Blessings, Rita

**Sign Language Group** We are learning sign language through worship songs. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday after worship service in Room 9 in Children's Wing. The dates are subject to change depending on church events. In December, we are meeting on 12/1 and Wednesday 12/4, Blue Christmas Service at 7pm, where we are invited to sign 'Silent Night, Holy Night'. Do you love sign language? Come and join us! Questions? Contact Youngla Kwon ([youngla0707@gmail.com](mailto:youngla0707@gmail.com)).

**Las Cascabeles PCLG Bell Choir** . We meet on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:30pm in the choir room.

**The PW Morning Circle** The Thursday morning Bible study will be meeting at the Terraces. We meet once a month on the third Thursday of the month at 10:15 am in the 2nd floor Conference Room. Any questions? contact Ruth Fong at 1(408) 395-9342 or [ru.fong@comcast.net](mailto:ru.fong@comcast.net).

**MINOW Men's Bible Study:** We have a men's study in person and via Zoom each Wednesday morning at 6:30 a.m. This group, called MINOW, Men In Need Of Wisdom, is, much like our Presbyterian church, run by its members! We take turns leading the weekly study, and when the current study topic nears completion, together we choose the next. Currently we are studying the book "Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus" and learning how the Jewishness of Jesus can transform your faith. Please reach out ([minow@pclg.org](mailto:minow@pclg.org)) to be added to the weekly invite.

## **Youth Update**

Happy Advent! This morning we do not have Middle School Sunday School, so stick around for communion and the beginnings of the Christmas story.

This evening is the Advent Craft Faire and Dinner, starting at 4 pm and running through 6:30 p.m. Middle School and High School students are invited to join to create and help out. The timing means we won't be having SNIFF tonight but there will be a low-key High School youth group time following the craft faire dinner cleanup.

**Children's Ministry (Infant - 5th grade):** Welcome Families! On Sundays our Nursery is available for children and infants - 2 1/2 years old. Preschool-1st grade will meet in our Preschool Ministry Wing, and 2nd-5th grade will meet in our Children's Ministry Wing. Please refer to the church calendar for special Sundays when Sunday School may not be available. Visiting families should walk their child back to Sunday School after the children's message so that teachers can meet the parents and know who they are dismissing the child to at pickup. Please reach out with any questions to Erin Heath the Director of Children's Ministry [erin.heath@pclg.org](mailto:erin.heath@pclg.org)

**Giving Online** Please visit [www.pclg.org/online-giving](http://www.pclg.org/online-giving), or use this QR code, to access our online giving tools. You can give a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift.



## **Dates To Remember**

Dec. 1	Advent Craft Faire and Supper
Dec. 4	Blue Christmas service, 7pm
Dec. 5	Christmas Tea at noon hosted at Shir Hadash
Dec. 8	Dr. Patrick Hunt
Dec. 21	College Welcome Brunch 10am-12pm at Watermulder Home
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Services 4 pm and 10 pm

**Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos | 16575 Shannon Rd. Los Gatos  
[www.pclg.org](http://www.pclg.org) | 408-356-6156**

*We believe that everyone is created in the image of God and that we are all children of our loving God. We welcome you into the life of our church regardless of where you are on your faith journey. We welcome people of any race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation or gender identity. Simply put, we believe that God loves you and so do we*