

Banning United Methodist Church

† Congregation rises in body or spirit
Congregational response in bold

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2024

GATHERING

SPECIAL MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP

Cathy Mauge

WELCOMING FRIENDS AND NEWCOMERS

Rev. Janice Mabey

We ask that you please sign the attendance book, then pass it to the middle aisle. If you are here this morning as a guest, please include your address and phone number, so that we can reach out to you. If this is your first time visiting and would like to introduce yourself, please raise your hand, and a microphone will be brought to you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Doug

WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

Cathy Mauge

†HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

UMH #234

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Mona and Sonya Villegas

Reader: Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

Congregation: Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. “His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this” (Isaiah 9:7).

Reader: We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God’s salvation wherever we go.

†HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

UMH #238

†CALL TO WORSHIP

L: All people are welcome here today.

P: We have gathered to hear the story of Jesus’s birth.

L: All who walk in darkness,

P: come see a great light.

L: All who hope to see God,

P: come see the glory of our savior, Jesus Christ.

All who are simply waiting to see what’s next,

come see the good news God brings.

Rejoice before God in the light and glory of this night.

We rejoice that God’s grace has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

†HYMN

“Joy to the World”

UMH #246

OPENING PRAYER

Dan Mabey

Holy God, help us pause in the midst of our busyness. Quiet our minds on this Christmas Eve, that we may hear the *good news* of Your gift of Jesus Christ. Your gift to a world so in need of peace, justice, and joy. If we walk in darkness and despair, help us see the great light of Your presence. If we wait in hope for the coming of Christ, help us offer hope to those around us. Help us see Your glory breaking into our lives, as Mary and the shepherds saw before us. In the quiet of this night, may we welcome Your peace and favor through Jesus Christ, our Messiah, and Lord. Amen.

†HYMN

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

UMH #251

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-7 NRSV

²*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.* ³*You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.* ⁴*For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.* ⁵*For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.* ⁶*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* ⁷*His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

Dan Mabey

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20 NRSV

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²*This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.* ³*All went to their own towns to be registered.* ⁴*Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.* ⁵*He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.* ⁶*While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.* ⁷*And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

⁸*In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.* ⁹*Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.* ¹⁰*But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

†HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

UMH #211

SERMON

“Emanuel is With Us”

Pastor Doug

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Dan Mabey

OFFERTORY

Cathy Mauge

†DOXOLOGY

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dan Mabey

We offer these gifts to You, Holy God, rejoicing that Your grace has appeared in Jesus Christ. May Your love for all people and Your zeal for justice and peace transform this offering into Christ’s presence this Christmas season and always. Amen.

†HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

UMH #240

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Rev. Janice Mabey

INVITATION, CONFESSION AND PARDON

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

UMH Page 12

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

In the fullness of time you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

As your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago, so, on the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever. **Amen.**

†**COMMUNION HYMN** "Away in a Manger"

UMH #217

† **CANDLE LIGHTING AND CLOSING CAROL**

(The church will be darkened with the exception of the Christ Candle. Pastor Doug will light his candle from the Christ Candle and light the candles of all the participants, then the first person in the front pew. The light will then be passed to each worshiper. Remember to dip your unlit candle into the lighted one, to receive the light.)

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

UMH #239

(We will sing "Silent Night" vs. 1, 2, and 3, then repeat verses as needed until all candles are lit, and church is darkened.)

†**BENEDICTION**

Pastor Doug

POSTLUDE

Cathy Mauge

In Ministry:

Pastor: Doug Purcell

Rev. Moonyoung Lee, East District Superintendent

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank, California-Pacific Annual Conference

Cheerfully Serving the Lord in Worship this Afternoon...

Liturgist: Dan Mabey, and Rev. Janice Mabey **Organist:** Cathy Mauge **Pianist:** Maxine Hoth **Music Director:** Myrle Petty

Head Usher: Jack Holstad **Assisted by:** Penny Holstad, Dick Carris, and Sonya Moore, Ron & Sandra Glickman, Charlee Neitzel

Sound Technician/Video Technician: Tiffany Douglas



Banning United
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Church

Doug Purcell, Pastor

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