

 **PIEDMONT COMMUNITY**

CHURCH

Worship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

It's the Third Sunday in Advent.
Steve Schibsted preaches.
Alternative Gift Market follows worship



WELCOME

No matter your age, race, economic status, religious background, gender or sexual orientation, you are welcome here.

VISIT ONLINE AT PIEDMONTCHURCH.ORG

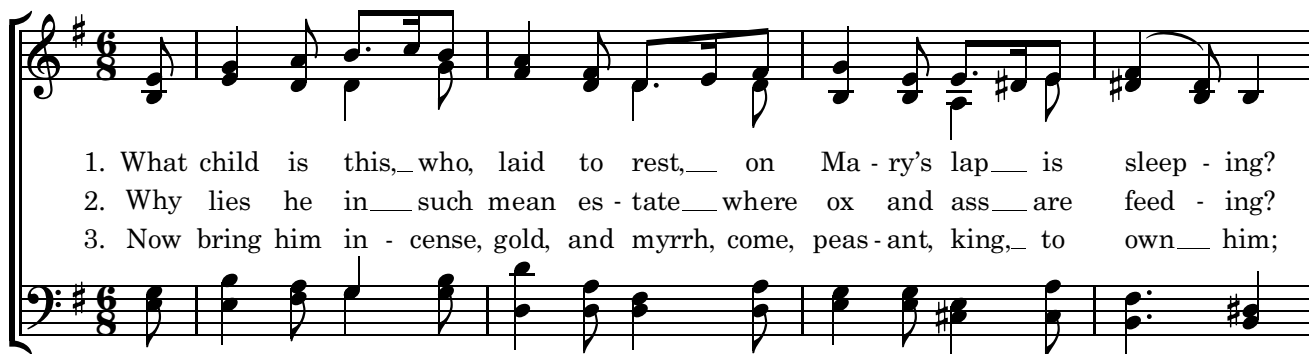


Piedmont Church is equipped with the Loop Hearing system. Headsets are available in the Narthex. Ask an Usher for assistance.

Piedmont Community Church
400 Highland Avenue
Piedmont, California 94611
(510) 547-5700

What child is this, who, laid to rest

Greensleeves



1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing?
2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3. Now bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, peas - ant, king, to own him;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear, for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the son of Ma - ry.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Steve Schibsted

Prelude

Come, thou long-expected Jesus
Michael Alvis, tenor
Stephen Main, piano

arr. Mark Hayes
(born 1953)

*Church Bell

(*The congregation is invited to stand)

*Call to Worship

Liturgist: Awake from sleep.

People: Raise weary bodies.

Liturgist: Light a candle in the cold and dark.

People: One candle to chase away the night and herald the coming light.

Liturgist: This is the time of readying the heart.

People: This is the season for steps toward the stable.

Liturgist: Let us worship the Lord, who came to live among us first as a babe in a manger.

*Hymn

What child is this

Greensleeves

Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent

Benson Family
Neil, Kate, Kajsja and Anna

*Prayer of Confession

Zookie Todd

God of all time and seasons, how quickly the year spins by, and we are caught unprepared for your Advent. We are still recovering from the latest crisis or the long list of things to do. The demands on our time seem unending, the tasks seem overwhelming, and our energy is draining. Holy God, sing to us in the stillness of this moment; speak to us in the depths of our hearts. Let there be a space for you in the midst of all the hurry and rush -- a holy, inner place that cherishes silence and song, that keeps a candle lit and a manger ready. God of all time and seasons, create in us a place for your birth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Choral Response and Words of Assurance

Words of Christian Greeting

Old Testament Reading**Psalm 62:1-8**

Zookie Todd

Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken. How long will you assault me? Would all of you throw me down—this leaning wall, this tottering fence? Surely they intend to topple me from my lofty place; they take delight in lies. With their mouths they bless, but in their hearts they curse. Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Dr. Don Ashburn

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.

Anthem*Fantasy on two French carols*

arr. Hadar, S. T. Main

**Kate Benson, clarinet
Dorothy Nemeth, violoncello
Michael Alvis, Michael Orlinsky,
and Sean Arietta, percussion
The Handbell Ensemble
Stephen Main, harp**

Scripture Reading**Matthew 11:28-30**

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Sermon**“COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS”**

Rev. Dr. Steve Schibsted
Let Us Find Our Rest in Thee

Offertory*Angels we have heard on high*

arr. Sherman, S. T. Main

**Kate Benson, clarinet, and Dorothy Nemeth, violoncello
Annalise King, euphonium, and Becca Burrington, trombone
Sean Arietta, timpani, percussion
The Handbell Ensemble
Chancel Choir**

(For text, please see Blue Hymnal 113)

***Doxology**

(Hymnal, p. 572)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Zookie Todd

Gracious God, in response to your great love for us, we joyfully offer the fruits of our labor and our lives in these gifts. Bless and multiply them, we pray, that the transformative power of your love will be a reality in our church, in our community and in our world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn**

(see next page)

God rest you merry, gentlemen

God rest you

***Commission and Benediction**

Dr. Schibsted

Postlude

Improvisation

Fellowship and light refreshments available in the Courtyard.

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Steve Schibsted, Senior Pastor
Sschibsted@PiedmontChurch.org

Toni Fischer, Business Manager
Toni@PiedmontChurch.org

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Dr. Stephen Main, Music Minister
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Michael Barber, Communications
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Shelley Clopton, Admin Assist
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Jay Foreman, Asst. Property Mgr.
Jay@PiedmontChurch.org

Carol Leslie, Events Coordinator
EventsWow@aol.com

God rest you merry



1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
3. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place;



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
and with true love and char - i - ty each oth - er now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.



O — tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy;



O — tid - - ings of com - fort and joy.

WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

We are delighted and grateful that you have come to worship here this morning. Please silence your cell phones and wearable devices. Our greeters and Deacons will be available during the coffee hour to answer questions you may have about the church.

The Clara Barton Room (outside Sanctuary to the right) has closed circuit viewing of the service for parents with infants and young children. Please ask an usher for assistance if needed.

We especially welcome those of you who are visitors. If you would like more information about Piedmont Community Church, please visit our website at PiedmontChurch.org

Worship in the Sanctuary takes place at 10am with organ, hymns, prayer and preaching. This service lasts about one hour. Our NextGen program for children and youth is provided at the same hour. We have devices for those who are hard of hearing. Please see an usher.

Communion is open to anyone who is called to receive the body and blood of Christ at the Lord's Table. It is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. If you have questions about the Lord's Supper, or about anything else at Piedmont Church, please contact one of the pastors.

Baptisms for infants, youth and adults usually take place during worship. A meeting between the parents and the minister is required. Contact the church office at (510) 547-5700

- - - - - **FINAL DAY TO RESERVE** - - - - -

Poinsettias In Memory or In Honor

The Sanctuary will be decorated with live poinsettias for the Christmas season. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor or celebration of a person or occasion the price is \$15 per plant. Mention of your purchase will appear in the worship bulletin.

Complete and submit this order form. You may pay for the plant through cash, check or electronically. Plants will be available to take with you after the 9pm service December 24, or anytime during the following week. Contact Paul Schroeder at pschroeder@slatt.com

Name of Donor _____

Contact Information _____

Circle one: Memory Honor Celebration

Name or person(s) or occasion(s) honored _____

Number of plants requested _____ (limit 2 names per plant, please)

To pay electronically, scan the QR Code or visit PiedmontChurch.org under GIVE



CHRISTMAS EVE
4pm Family Friendly - 9pm Candelight *Services*

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING GOES TO CITYTEAM

The recipient of this year's Christmas Eve offering will be CityTeam - in support of their 19 mobile food pantries serving families in need in Alameda County. An added bonus to your generosity comes in the form of a matching gift. **Your donation will be matched by a dollar-for-dollar grant.**



2 CONFIRMATION CLASSES, JAN 8 & 12

We invite 7th graders and above to join our 9-week Confirmation Class, which starts on January 8 and 12 and concludes with a special overnight retreat on March 28, 29. At the conclusion of the class, students will have the opportunity to be introduced to the congregation during the Palm Sunday service if they choose to pursue membership with Piedmont Church.

PIEDMONT COMMUNITY CHURCH

SNOW DAY

DECEMBER 20, 4-7P

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SLEDDING HILLS, BOUNCE HOUSES,
OUTDOOR GAMES, FACE PAINTING, HOT
CHOCOLATE, CHRISTMAS MOVIES, ART &
CRAFTS AND LOTS MORE.

Free of charge!

www.PiedmontChurch.org

**SCAN TO REGISTER
SESSION 1**



**SCAN TO REGISTER
SESSION 2**



SNOW DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help make this year's Snow Day unforgettable. With over 20 tons of snow, sledding hills, games and more, there are countless ways to serve and bring joy and hope to our community. Scan to sign up, or contact Kerry@PiedmontChurch.org



PIEDMONT COMMUNITY CHURCH

2024 Alternative Gift Market

AGM OFFICIALLY OPEN FOR BUSINESS

We celebrate the 21st anniversary of our Alternative Gift Market with an in-person gathering today after worship.

Come and meet representatives from local and international organizations who are helping those in need. All of the organizations have been vetted by the church mission team.

Barbara Crawford is preparing special food for the event; 30 different items - both sweet and savory - including hot soup.

'THE MESSENGER'

SUBSCRIBE AT PIEDMONTCHURCH.ORG

GET ALL THE NEWS
from Piedmont Community Church delivered to your email inbox every Tuesday. Scan the QR Code or visit PiedmontChurch.org

