



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF SAN LEANDRO

Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE



Tuesday, December 24, 2024
7:00 PM SERVICE

Christmas Eve Service

Organ Prelude · Mary Mackie

Gabriel's Message ... Michael Bedford

Poem · "To Carry a Dream"

By Rev. Sarah Are

Opening Prayer

* 🎵 Carol · O Come, All Ye Faithful

No. 41

Lighting the Christ Candle · Raj & Niketa Shah

Welcome · The Rev. Renée Rico

Prayer of Confession (responsively) · Lou Pennebaker

Leader: Ever-present God, From time to time we dream radical dreams.

People: We dream of freedom for the imprisoned, food for the hungry, and equality for all.

Leader: We dream bold, radical dreams, until the world tells us that these dreams are impossible.

People: And when that happens, we are tempted to tuck our dreams into coat pockets and let them collect dust on the shelves of our hearts. Forgive us for giving up so easily.

Leader: Forgive us for giving up so easily, for on this night we remember and celebrate a radical dream— That you dwelled among us.

People: Give us the courage to dust old dreams off the shelf With the confidence that with you, the impossible is possible.

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Christmas Eve Service

Leader: With you, a light always shines in the darkness.

People: With you, even an unwed teenage couple and a band of shepherds can bring joy to the world.

Leader: Thanks be to God for a dream like that. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination

The First Lesson · Shari Plunkett

Scripture: Isaiah 9: 2-7

♪ **Anthem** · Chancel Choir

"Never Been a Night Like This!" ... Lloyd Larson

Richard Dinwiddie, director; Mollie Wakeman, accompanist
(CCLI #20405356)

There were shepherds in the field
Keeping watch at night,
When out of the dark, a most unusual sight.
An angel of the Lord came with news of joy,
"The Savior's been born tonight, a baby boy!"

The shepherds rejoiced on that Christmas night
As the heavenly host turned the darkness bright.
There'd never been a night like this before!

There'd never been a night like this before
With the angels around singin' praise to the Lord.
The glory of the Lord was revealed that night.

There'd never been a song like this before,
Heaven's music proclaimed the birth of Christ the
Lord.
There'd never been a night, a night like this before.

"Do not be afraid," the angel said to them,
"You will find the baby down in Bethlehem.
He's in a manger bed, such a humble birth,
The King of kings has come down to earth."

Christmas Eve Service

The shepherds rejoiced and began to run
To the newborn King, God's holy Son.
There'd never been a night like this before.

There'd never been a night like this before,
With the angels around singin' praise to the Lord.
The glory of the Lord was revealed that night!

There'd never been a song like this before,
Heaven's music proclaimed the birth of Christ, the
Lord.
There'd never been a night, a night like this before.

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Never been a night, a night like this before,
Never been a song, a song like this before,
Never been a night, a night like this before.
Never been a night like this!

The Second Lesson · Sue Robertson

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

*  **Carol** · **Away in a Manger**
No. 24

The Third Lesson · Melissa Seaton

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7

Christmas Eve Service

♪ Anthem · Chancel Choir

Calypso Lullaby ... Jester Hairston and Joel Raney
Richard Dinwiddie, director; Mollie Wakeman, accompanist
(CCLI #20405356)

On a clear and starry night,
On a hillside far away,
Shepherds saw a golden light,
And they heard the angels say:

“Alleluia, shout for joy!”
Sweet music fills the sky.
The heavens ring while angels sing
A Christmas lullaby.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, little one,
Rest your head.
Dream of peace on earth
In your manger bed.

Angels filled the ev’ning sky
And with joy began to sing:
“Glory be to God on High!
Let the bells of heaven ring!”

“Alleluia, shout for joy!”
Sweet music fills the sky.
The heavens ring while angels sing
A Christmas lullaby.

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold.

“Alleluia, shout for joy!”
Sweet music fills the sky.
The heavens ring while angels sing
A Christmas lullaby.


Christmas Eve Service

Sleep, sleep, sleep, little one,
Rest your head.
Dream of peace on earth
In your manger bed.

“Alleluia, shout for joy!”
Sweet music fills the sky.
The heavens ring while angels sing
A Christmas lullaby.

The Fourth Lesson · The Rev. Renée Rico

Scripture: Luke 2:8-14

- *  **Carol · Joy to the World!**
No. 40

Reflection · The Rev. Renée Rico

- *  **Carol · Angels We Have Heard on High**
No. 23

Offering

Offerings may be placed in the Offering Box in the church narthex, before or after worship. Thank you for your support!

Christmas Prayer · The Rev. Renée Rico

Christmas Eve Service

♪ Solo · Leland Morine

O Holy Night ... Adolphe Adam

Mary Mackie, accompanist

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining.
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born,
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another.
His law is love and his gospel is Peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His Name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we.
Let all within us Praise His Holy name.
Christ is the Lord, O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

The Fifth Lesson · Lou Pennebaker

Scripture: John 1:1-5

Sharing the Light

(Please tip your unlit candle toward the lit candle next to you. Then turn to your neighbor and keep your candle upright as they tip their unlit candle toward yours. After "Silent Night" has been sung, extinguish your candle. When you exit the sanctuary, you may place your candle in the basket provided for that purpose.)

* ♪ Carol · Silent Night, Holy Night

No. 60

* **Benediction**

♪ Organ Postlude · Mary Mackie

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring ... J.S. Bach

Welcome to the Worship of God

We trust that God will fill your life with the love, joy and peace that come from knowing Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Prayer Requests

The Prayer Request cards in the pew racks are for your convenience in making prayer requests. Please sign them and place them in the Offering Box in the narthex.

Assisted Listening Devices Available

If you have difficulty hearing during the worship service, please ask an usher in the narthex for an Assisted Listening Device. They are easy to use and effective so that you can fully hear all of the worship service.

Ushers

Brian Hickey, Lowell Hickey, Susan Robertson

Church Staff

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Rev. Renée Rico | Transitional Pastor |
| Lou Pennebaker | Director of Christian Education |
| Richard Dinwiddie | Director of Music |
| Mary Mackie, Bobbi Hunter | Organists |
| Emely Wendell | Administrative Manager |
| Rich Meadowcroft | Custodian |



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