

WORSHIP SERVICE

JANUARY 28, 2024, 10:00AM

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

PRELUDE

There Is More Love Somewhere Adam and Matt Podd
Cherub Choir, Spirit Singers, Joyful Noise Choir
Chancel Choir, Congregation

*HYMN #S10

Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim Hanover

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a
 great light;

**People: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness
 on them light has shined.**

Leader: For a child has been born for us, a Son given to us;

**People: Authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is
 named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His
 authority shall grow continually,**

Leader: And there shall be endless peace for the throne of
 David and His kingdom.

**All: He will establish and uphold it with justice and
 with righteousness from this time onward and
 forevermore.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**It may seem naïve, in a world of grief, to choose to live in joy;
it may seem foolish, in a world where solemnity is power, to
sing and dance to a different tune; it may seem cruel, in a**

world of suffering and injustice, to speak of light and celebration; but You have come, Jesus, to bring joy into our grief, light into our darkness, singing into our mourning; and it is an act of healing and proclamation to believe and embrace the joy You offer. Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Hallelujah!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (based on Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11)

Leader: The prophets of old have declared, “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God.

People: For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robes of righteousness.”

Leader: Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

ANTHEM

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Carol Sams

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Elsie Kalashini Miller

child of Allen and Elizabeth Miller

VOWS OF THE PARENTS

VOW OF THE CONGREGATION

Deacon: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care for Elsie.

UNISON WELCOME

Elsie: We the community of The Congregational Church welcome you into our family, which is called the body of Christ. We rejoice in your presence among us, and the presence of your family. As you grow, we will tell you about this moment that we have shared with you, and we will tell you about God's love that has been poured out on you. As you grow, we pray that you will tell us about God's love as it touches you; so together we may reach toward the Kingdom of God. Welcome!

All Children through Grade 7 recess to Church School

*HYMN #306

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

Stuttgart

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:21-28, 40-45

[Exodus 29:37 & 6:27a]

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Close Encounters of the Jesus Kind”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

SERMON RESPONSE

My Way's Cloudy

Harry T. Burleigh

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As a congregation, we pray together – through word, silence, and
The Lord's Prayer (sins)

PRAYER RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

Peter C. Lutkin

CALL TO OFFERING

Please pass the burgundy welcome books

OFFERTORY

Ubi Caritas

Ola Gjeilo

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi
amor. Exsultemus et in ipso jucundemur. Timeamus et amemus
Deum vivum. Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.*

Where charity and love are, God is there. The love of
Christ has gathered us together. Let us rejoice and be glad
in it. Let us revere and love the living God. And from a
sincere heart let us love one another. Amen.

*DOXOLOGY (unison)

**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 DEDICATION

*HYMN #503

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

Beach Spring

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Tuba Tune in D Major

Craig Sellar Lang

*Congregation please stand.

Thank you to the McLain family for hosting our fellowship time
this morning. Please join us for coffee in Smith Hall immediately
following the service.

The flowers displayed in the Chapel and Meeting House this past month have been arranged by Tracy Goldman, Juliet Howe, Kris Johnson, and Ré Telep. We give thanks to God for beautiful flowers, and we are grateful to God's servants for sharing their gifts with us.

ARE YOU VISITING OUR CHURCH TODAY?

Welcome, and thank you for worshipping with us! If you have questions about our church or wish to join us for our next new member class, please contact Courtney Flynn at (203) 594-1850 or welcoming@godsacre.org.

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The 2024 Stewardship Campaign is underway! We are focused on Jesus' teaching that through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will do "even greater works than these" [John 14:12]. We ask that you reflect on what "greater work" the Lord might be calling us to in this next season of our life together as a church family and that you support our church by pledging to the very best of your ability. You may pledge using the pledge cards found in your pew or by utilizing the QR code on the back of your bulletin.

ADULT CONFIRMATION – BEGINS FEBRUARY 4, 8:45-9:45AM

Adults are invited to spend twelve Sundays reading and discussing scripture, faith themes, and faith questions with church friends, just like our confirmands. For more information or to participate contact Chapin at pastor@godsacre.org.

ALL-CHURCH SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 11

Midwinter is a time of increased need at homeless shelters. Join us for a special Souper Bowl Sunday on February 11. Children are encouraged to wear their favorite sports jersey (a jersey of any kind-football, soccer, baseball, swimming, tennis, etc.) to church and bring a donation of non-perishable foods for Open Doors, a local housing and homeless service organization. Children will compete in the Bible Bowl during church school. This is a Sunday you won't want to miss!

Adults bring your items too! Cars will be parked in the circle with trunks open between 9:45am-12:00pm. Contact Tracy Goldman, office@godsacre.org with questions.

Needed items for Open Doors include:

Soup (preferably chicken noodle)	Spices
Rice (preferably 2lb bags)	Coffee
Dried Beans (red or black)	Breakfast Cereal
Jelly (grape or strawberry)	Peanut Butter
Reusable Grocery Bags	Spaghetti Sauce
Can Openers (regular old manual kind)	Canned Tuna

BECOME A MISSION SPONSOR TODAY

We seek to raise \$75,000 to make our mission to Puerto Rico possible! 108 kids will embark on our February Mission Trip to serve and love thy neighbor. We will be partnering with *First Baptist Church of Río Piedras* to serve those brothers and sisters in need. This mission is only possible with the support of our congregation and YG Friends. Will you please consider being a mission sponsor? Donations can be made online at www.godsacre.org/give

CHILDREN'S CHOIR'S UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Joyful Noise and the Spirit Singers will light up our last Sunday of Epiphany during the prelude of our Sunday worship service on February 11. Be sure to come early to support their hard work! Has your child been enjoying music time in Church School? Come try out children's choir this week! Please email Greer Lyle at greer@godsacre.org for more information.

CHURCH ENVELOPE PICK UP

The Church Envelopes have arrived. If you requested 2024 church envelopes, they can be found on the windowsill in Smith Hall. If you would like to be added to our request list, please contact Caroline Smittle at caroline@godsacre.org

CLEMENTINE'S PLAYDATES REGISTRATION

The winter/spring semester of Clemintine's Playdates will begin on February 7. Please email churchschool@godsacre.org if you need the link to register.

DEDICATE A FLOWER ARRANGEMENT FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Dedicate a floral arrangement to remember someone special who has passed away or who is celebrating a special birthday, anniversary, or graduation. Please contact Tracy Goldman at office@godsacre.org to choose a date and discuss color preference. A suggested donation of \$100 is greatly appreciated.

JANUARY PLATE OFFERING

The January plate offering will go directly to the fundraising effort for the YG Mission Trip to Puerto Rico.

MOVIES FOR A MISSION! – FEBRUARY 3

Support the YG Mission Trip and have a night out on Saturday, February 3 from 5:00-7:00pm! Youth Ministries and Children and Family Ministries invite you to participate in this brand-new high school mission trip fundraiser. High School YGers will host Movies for a Mission – a fun-filled kid's night featuring movies, crafts, and snacks/dinner at the church. We invite you to drop off some or all of your children at the following dates/times to enjoy a date night, solo time, or one-on-one kid-time! They will be well cared for by YG kids and advisors and will enjoy fellowship with other church kids. We ask for a minimum \$25 contribution per family, and ALL proceeds will go towards the YG February Mission Trip. Check your email for the link to sign-up.

NEW SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

We will be offering a contemporary worship service with communion on the first Sunday of the month from February through June. We have church members who are not able to make Sunday morning worship and have requested an alternative time to gather. We also have church members who have requested a service with more contemporary music. On February 4, March 3, April 7, May 5 and June 2, Chapin, our Junior Deacons, Greer Lyle, and Nick Dupey will be leading worship from 6:00-6:45pm in the Chapel. We invite you to join us and share this new offering with anyone you think might be interested.

SENIOR YOUTH DIRECTOR SEARCH

We are beginning the formal search for our next Senior Youth Director as Kelly Antonson prepares for ordination. We are seeking a compassionate, organized, and energetic leader with 4+ years' experience working with children to oversee our large and vibrant youth programs. If you, a family member, or friend are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please email hr@godsacre.org.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FLOWER WORKSHOP

Join us in Smith Hall on Thursday, February 8, from 9:30-11:00am. Juliet Howe, head of the Flower Ministry Team, will guide us in creating a beautiful arrangement. Our morning will be filled with flowers, fellowship, and fun. Sign up and leave with your own floral creation. Check your email to RSVP or contact Lesley Cousley at lacousley@gmail.com.

YOUTH MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

1/28 MSYG (Grades 7-8), Tape-a-Thon, 4:00-5:30pm

1/28 YG (Grades 9-12), FUNding the Mission & *Mandatory Mission Trip Parent Meeting, 7:00-8:30pm

***The Mission Trip Parent Meeting is required for all parents of kids traveling on this year's trip**

1/30 JYG/Guppies (Grades 3-6), 4:30-5:30pm

1/31 Quest (Grades 9-12), 7:00-8:30pm

MUSIC SURVEY

In an effort to learn more about our congregation's musical inspirations, engagement, and abilities and to support the church's efforts to identify a new Director of Music Ministries, we have created a brief survey, and we would greatly appreciate your input!

To take the survey online, simply visit this web address on any computer or mobile device:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCMusicSurvey>

You can also access the survey by scanning this QR code:



The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete, and it is intended for anyone in high school or older. We encourage each family member of your household to take the survey individually, as we want to hear each person's unique perspective. If you have questions about the survey, including how to receive or submit a paper-based version, please feel free to contact David Haddad at (917) 270-6086 or davidmhaddad3@gmail.com.

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

Senior Minister

Kelly Antonson

Senior Youth Director

Dr. Michael Burnette

Interim Director of Music Ministries

Greer Lyle

Director of Children's Music & Drama

Hans Tashjian, bass

Soloist

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Sara Bakker

We are a welcoming, inclusive, and compassionate church community where difference and diversity are valued. We gather to promote the love and knowledge of the God revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Redeemer and Friend, and welcome all to participate in the life of our church regardless of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, ability, marital status, or sexual orientation.

We invite you to make your 2024 pledge today.

