

Welcome to Worship at
Safe Harbor
Presbyterian Church



Service for the Lord's Day
3rd Sunday of Advent
December 16th, 2018

The Gathering

Welcome/Announcements

† **Call to Worship: (from 1 John 4:9-12)**

Leader: God's love has been made known among us,

People: **for God has sent Jesus Christ into the world that all people might live.**

Leader: My friends, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

People: **No one has ever seen God,**

Leader: but if we love one another,

People: **God abides in us.**

All: **Let us worship God and seek to love as God has loved us.**

Prayers of Adoration (unison): Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you, now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end, and your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ, who lives in power with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Candles and Preparation of the Cradle

Reader 1: This is the third Sunday in Advent, the time of preparation for the coming of Christ our Savior. Today our word is *witness*. We do more than wait for our savior and prepare ourselves. We are also called to witness. We should not keep this great news to ourselves, but rather share it with others. When the news is good news, our hearts overflow to tell others about the love we have found.

Reader 2: (Isaiah 61:1-4)

Reader 1: We relight our first Advent candle, which reminds us to wait on Christ. We also relight last week's candle, remembering that we prepare as we wait. Now we light today's candle, which reminds us to witness to the light that is coming into our world.

Reader 2: Let us pray. Holy God, we find it difficult to tell the good news, and yet the world is yearning to hear it. Help us witness to the truth of our Savior, that others may come to the light and also be saved by grace. Let these candles remind us to wait, to prepare and to witness to Christ's coming. Amen.

Hymn of Praise: #108 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

†=If able, please stand

Prayer of Confession (unison): O Holy God, our very waiting in Advent is itself a confession. Because we wait with such eager longing for your coming we know our deep need for a savior. All is not well with us. We are selfish sometimes, and mean. We put others down rather than lift them up. We think first of ourselves and then assume we are right about everything. We find the poor irritating. We have not humbled the mighty. We have not worked for peace. We have not believed that your coming can make a real difference in the world and so we sing songs with no heart and focus more on what we can get than what we can give.

(Please take a moment for silent personal prayers of confession.)

Forgive us, Gracious God. Look with mercy on our feeble faith. Reach down with compassion to our haughty hearts. Mend, us God With Us, and set us free to start again. In Jesus' holy name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

†The Sharing of the Peace

Moments with Children

The Word

Special Music

Hymn of Preparation for the Word: #452 "Open the Eyes of My Heart"

Scripture: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Phil. 4:4-7

Sermon: "Witness"

The Rev. Eugenia A. Gamble

Hymn of Response #104 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

The Prayers

Call to Prayer: # 466 "Come and Fill Our Hearts with Your Peace"

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer:

Response to Prayer: # 710 "We Are an Offering"

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.

The Offering

Prayer of Dedication

The Sending

† **Hymn of Parting: #88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

† Charge and Benediction

†=If able, please stand

Welcome

We are so delighted that you have worshipped with us today! If you are a guest, we are doubly blessed by your presence. We will pray for you this week. Please stay for a moment for refreshments so that we can get to know you.

Address: 2700 Eton Rd., Cambria, CA 93428

Pastor Eugenia's Cell: 805.591.9548

eugeniaagamble@gmail.com

CDs of the sermon are available upon request.

Call Caroline Johnson at the church office in Nipomo. 805-473-8059

HERE TO SERVE

Leadership Team

Officiating Pastor:

The Rev. Eugenia A. Gamble

Keyboardist/soloist:

Cyndi Culp

Church Administrator:

Caroline Johnson

Tom and Lana Cochrun

Patti and Donovan Ropp

Monty and Julia Rice

Michelle Costa and Jeff Rodriguez

Don't forget Tuesday evening Dinner Fellowship at 5:45.

If you would like to support the work of Safe Harbor Church financially, tax deductible checks may be made to Presbytery of Santa Barbara marked Safe Harbor Cambria. Thank you!

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