

Welcome to Worship at
Safe Harbor
Presbyterian Church



Service for the Lord's Day
2nd Sunday of Advent
December 9th, 2018

The Gathering

Welcome/Announcements

† **Call to Worship:**

(adapted from *Touch Holiness* by Ruth Duck & Maren Tirabassi)

Leader: A tiny jewel of light dances on the edge of the horizon: a solitary star before sunrise glimmers a promise of dawn at the end of the world's night.

People: **It is the light of the world, Emmanuel (God with us), the Promised One. Come to us Emmanuel! We have seen your light and gather here awaiting the day of your coming!**

All: **Let us worship God.**

Prayers of Adoration (unison): God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin. Keep our conduct blameless, keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good that you have begun in us. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near; your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Candles and Preparation of the Cradle

Reader 1: This is the second Sunday in Advent, the time of preparing for the coming of Christ our Savior. Today our word is *prepare*. Not only do we wait for our Savior, but we use this time of waiting creatively. We prepare for Christmas with gift purchases, tree trimming, home decorating and card sending. We prepare for Christ with prayer, quiet time and commitments to be better people.

Reader 2: (Reading Isaiah 40:1-5)

Reader 1: We light the first Advent candle, remembering that we wait for Christ. We also light today's candle, remembering that we must prepare our hearts for Christ's coming.

Reader 2: Let us pray. Gracious God, help us to prepare not only our homes but also our hearts and lives for the coming of Emmanuel. Let us make our way straight, that Christ may come to us in the fullness of time, as we wait and prepare a place in our lives. Amen.

Hymn of Praise: #85 verses 1 & 2 "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

†=If able, please stand

Prayer of Confession (unison): Silent Word, Creative Act, Hidden Truth, Revealed Love: we wait for you. To be precise, we are impatient for you to come and set things right. We are insecure with the world, fearful and anxious about the things we see around us. We refuse your guidance, but we often wish you would act according to our plans. We seldom pause to consider that you are waiting for us; waiting for us to listen and respond with a burning passion for your truth, your justice and your mercy.

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

Forgive us, Lord, for our casual faith. Forgive us for assuming we know your ways. Forgive us for thinking that love is a small thing reserved for those we like. Mend us, God of the Straight Way, and turn us back to you.

In Jesus' 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: Mal. 3-4; Luke 3:1-6

Sermon: "Bath Time"

The Rev. Eugenia A. Gamble

Hymn of Response #106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

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: #82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

† 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

Officiating Pastor:

The Rev. Eugenia A. Gamble

Keyboardist/soloist:

Cyndi Culp

Church Administrator:

Caroline Johnson

Leadership Team

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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