

LET THERE BE

Peace

THE SEASON OF
ADVENT

First Chinese Baptist Church
December 8th, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

Lisa Lee

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

Offering & Doxology

Advent Service

The Candle of Peace

Drs. Cynthia & Quentin Kinnison

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Special Music

Cristobal Abejo

“Zechariah’s Peace”

Pastor Steve Thurman

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Benediction

God be with You

Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.
And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.
He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.
Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:1-5, 28-31



How Do We Bring Peace To A Weary World?

A Responsive Advent Call to Confession:

Leader: How does a weary world practice peace?

People: By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.

Leader: By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor. By opening our doors of worship to all and forgiving seventy times seven.

People: By choosing grace over hate.

Lighting the SECOND CANDLE OF ADVENT

Leader: There are a million ways to practice peace. So today we light the second candle on our Advent wreath, the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge.

People: With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer: Drs. Rev. Cynthia & Quentin Kinnison

Let's Sing: O Come O Come Emmanuel!

O Come O Come Emmanuel!

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid all our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Some background on our series...

Dear Brothers and Sisters on our pilgrimage through Advent this year I wanted the visuals to be abstract. Why? Well, we have been through so much these past few years. Violence, hate speech, and pictures of so much loss on our many screens. So, I wanted to give you something else to look at and struggle with in this our Advent journey. I'm praying, over the next few weeks, you will come to the realization that our Savior was born into a weary world just like ours.

Warning! I will superimpose on this canvas of chaos the nativity. But the visual will not look like pictures you are used to so just go along. **Question:** Do you see Mary and the Christ child? No? Look a little closer! Why? Because you will find joy in this weary world only in the Christ child. BUT you have to search for Him in all the chaos.

- By the way...If you get a chance this week read Luke 1:24-45. You will discover a text that reminds us that joy is better when shared.

After reading the Scripture answer this question, "Who brings joy in my life today?"

Your fellow pilgrim pastorjack@fcbcfresno.org

For Advent this year I thought it would be appropriate for our pastoral leaders to direct our Advent as we prepare for Christmas. We are so fortunate to have strong pastoral leadership that serves both here in our church, in education and globally. Today we welcome

Drs. Cynthia & Quentin Kinnison.

Quentin has a Ph.D. in practical theology, is Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Fresno Pacific University. He is an author, lecturer, speaker and seminar leader. While Cynthia has her B.S. in sociology, an MSW, and a DMin with emphasis in church social work. She teaches Spiritual Formations at Fresno Pacific and is the FPU Internship Supervisor for undergraduate Christian ministry students. But most of all their delight is their daughter Carissa. FCBC is so fortunate to have them in our church life.

An Old Fashioned
**FLANNELGRAPH
CHRISTMAS**

December 15th at 11 am

Cookie reception to follow
Please bring your favorites to share

Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24TH

6:30 PM

Interim Pastor Steve Thurman · steve@fcbcfresno.org

Rev. Jeannie Gong – 中文牧師 · jeannieg@fcbcfresno.org

Music Director Jeff Burkett · jeff@fcbcfresno.org

Office Manager Elizabeth Ott · liz@fcbcfresno.org

Pianist Cristobal Abejo

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