

# CLARION

Bridging the Centuries through Faith  
1913 – 2020



3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALTADENA

Altadena, California 91001  
Wednesday, December 8, 2021  
Volume LXXIII, Number XLIX

## OUR CALENDAR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6  
Clarion Mailing 8:00a

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11  
Mission Study Team 9:30am

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**In Person Worship Service**  
Sunday Family Worship 10:30  
**Congregational Meeting immediately**  
**after worship**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13  
Clarion Mailing 8:00a

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
Sunday Family Worship 10:30

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24  
Christmas Eve Service

## LEADERS IN WORSHIP

We are grateful to those persons who led us in worship on Sunday, December 5, 2021, with social distancing. Call to Worship, Sam Gin; Advent Candle Lighting, Bryce Lew, Jake Matsumoto, and Bob Uchida, Scripture, Virginia Gin (Malachi 3: 1-4 ) and Pastor Ann (Luke 3:1-6); music, Kenny Elliott, Virginia Gin, Ann Kiriyaama,, Greg Middleton, and Gus Zdanovich; Sound and Visuals, Sam Gin, Bob and Kevin Hayashi, Ron Ota; and the Rev. Ann Oglesby Edwards for her sermon "**Advent Questions**".

We are live streaming our 10:30 worship service via YouTube. The link is sent out by email the day before service, or search "First Presbyterian Church Altadena" on YouTube. Service is simultaneously recorded, and can be viewed at a later time.



Advent and Christmas Devotional

## *Come to Bethlehem and be Nourished*

By Donna Frischknecht Jackson, Editor of Presbyterians Today

I was hopeful at the start of 2021. Vaccines for a global pandemic were available. Businesses and churches began reopening. Weddings that were put on hold resumed. As the months passed, though, hope began to wane. Coronavirus variants emerged. Debates on mask wearing escalated. Those tirelessly working for justice grew weary. I found myself searching for certainty in a still uncertain world. And now, as the year ends and the Advent season begins, I find myself, like my biblical forebears, walking in darkness. Perhaps you are walking with me, too.

Now more than ever, we need to hold on to the Advent truth Isaiah proclaimed that "those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined." And we hold on to that promise together — in a community rooted in prayer and marked with compassion and forgiveness. We cannot walk alone. Nor should we.

We need to find our strength in the Good News of that holy night when a Savior for all humankind came to save us. We need to help one another bolster an all too precarious faith, especially in a world that seems to be emerging from a global crisis no better than it was before. Tempers are rising, patience is shorter, and self-preservation seems to be the star guiding businesses, governments and churches.

During this Advent, what if we seek to be the builders of that peaceable kingdom foretold, boldly committing to build a community that cares for the unloved, the unseen and the unheard? What if we discover once again that all we hunger for is in that ancient feeding trough that cradled a precious gift — a babe who would one day say, "I am the Bread of Life."

**Hearth, home, and a loaf of bread...**Bread is a key theme for this year's online devotional, which will continue beyond the four weeks of Advent through the 12 Days of Christmas and end on Epiphany, Jan. 6.

## Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 5

### The Heel of the Bread

*But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Micah 5:2*

The "heels" of the bread — that's what I grew up calling those end pieces of a loaf that no one wanted to eat. At least, I didn't want to eat them. Every time I made a peanut butter and jelly sandwich after a Saturday morning of watching cartoons, my little fingers would rummage through the plastic bag of Wonder Bread, reaching past the coarse heel to get to the soft and spongy slices. I can't tell you how many bread bags, with heels in them, have been tossed into the garbage throughout my life.

Bethlehem, the House of Bread, was the heel of the clans of Judah: an insignificant village where nothing much happened nor would anything great come from it. When it came to putting the plan for salvation into place, God though, didn't bypass Bethlehem for a much greater clan. Rather, God looked upon the lowly heel of clans as the ideal place for Jesus to be born. In doing so, God sent an important message to us: Stop discarding the "heels of bread" in the world — those people and places we deem unfit or unworthy.

I would like to say I no longer toss bread heels into the garbage, but that would be a lie. My fingers still rummage through the plastic bag, bypassing the heel to get to the "real" bread. But there is someone who doesn't mind the end pieces: my dad. (continued on page 2)

December 8, 2021

# OUR THANKS

*Our church expresses our sincere appreciation to the following members and friends for their gifts from December 1, 2021 thru December 7, 2021*

### Deacons

Bob and Mae Uchida, for holiday greetings

### Presbyterian Women

Pasadena Nikkei Seniors

\*\*\* \*\*

## WHO'S MAILING

December 13	Volunteers
December 20	Volunteers
December 27	Volunteers
January 3, 2022	Volunteers

### STAFF NOVEMBER 29

Editor	Donna Kinyama
Printer and Mailing Crew:	
	Gini Ishida, Dorothy Kirkland, and Bob & Mae Uchida
Mailer	Bob Uchida
Email	Bobby Hayashi



SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 12, 2021  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

TO PRESENT AND APPROVE THE SLATE  
OF NEW CHURCH OFFICERS.  
STEWARDS, DEACONS, ELDERS

2022 BUDGET

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE

### Heel of the Bread (continued from page 1)

I remember many mornings where he would happily take the piece of bread no one wanted. He would toast and butter it and drizzle honey on top. He would then sit at the table and smile at me as I looked on in disgust at him eating that part of the loaf.

There's something else I remember. As my dad held the bread's heel in his hand, he would look over at my special-needs brother. His disability was not an easy thing to deal with in our household. I will always carry memories of tension and sadness that permeated the air. There just weren't many resources back in the 70s for parents of children with special needs.

Perhaps my dad knew there was more to his son than society was seeing, that his son could do more than what the school system judged him capable of doing. Just like the heel of bread, my brother was not something to be discarded. Something great lies within each one of us, no matter what our abilities may be. Everyone is worthy. Everything has value. Just ask God, who chose the unwanted heel of clans — Bethlehem — to be the birthplace of our salvation.

On the second Sunday of Advent, pause and light a candle: either the one on your Advent wreath or any candle you may have in your home. Take your bread, bless it, break it and think more deeply about the "heels of bread" in your life. Who has been discarded, ignored or overlooked? And if you still throw away actual heels of bread, stop. Collect them during this season of Advent and use them to make a delicious bread pudding. Here's a tasty recipe:

[kingarthurbaking.com/recipes/maple-walnut-bread-pudding-recipe](http://kingarthurbaking.com/recipes/maple-walnut-bread-pudding-recipe)

## MISCELLANY

We're still collecting holiday food items for our December Flavor of the Month. Christmas is on the way.... what will you have on your holiday table? **Canned fruits and vegetables, soups, boxed side dishes, jello/pudding/bake boxes, pasta, canned meats....** Drop them off in the marked boxes in the sanctuary foyer.

Next Sunday, December 12 is the deadline for our **toy and gift drive** for the Christmas holiday. Bring a toy or small gift for a child (toddler thru High School aged), and drop it in the same box as the Flavor of the Month. Our ever-busy Deacons will be delivering food and toys to the appropriate entities.



**Nozomi Project** is a faith-based social enterprise located in Ishinomaki, Japan. Women are trained to create high-quality jewelry products, bringing sustainable income, community, dignity and hope along the way! Using broken pieces of pottery left in the wake of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami (as well as other up-cycled pottery), Nozomi women create one-of-a-kind pieces of jewelry. Each of our lines has been named by a Nozomi woman in honor of a loved one in her life. Perhaps, a Christmas gift for someone special? Visit their website at: [nozomiproject.com](http://nozomiproject.com)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CLARION is published by  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
2775 Lincoln Ave., Altadena, CA 91001  
(626) 791-4271 FAX (626) 791-3489  
<http://altadenapresbyterian.org>  
e-mail [frstpresaltadena@sbcglobal.net](mailto:frstpresaltadena@sbcglobal.net)

