THANKSGIVING

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory	Coventry Carol & First Noel	Mark Hayes

✢ Doxology for Advent (song of praise) — to the tune of UMH #211 (O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)

♬ **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.**

✢ Prayer of Thanksgiving

SENDING

✢ Closing Hymn	Hark! the Herald Angles Sing	UMH #240

✢ Benediction

Postlude	Noël	Alexandre Guilmant

Sharing in Worship Today:
Pastor: Rev. Mark F. Sturgess
Hymn Leader: Jordan Tickner
Multimedia: Tommy Smith
Coffee Host: Bells - Ernie trait and Debbie Shaw

Pastor: Rev. Melinda Teter Dodge
Organist: Derek Gordon
Reader: Bruce Thompson
Greeter: Rich MacMahon

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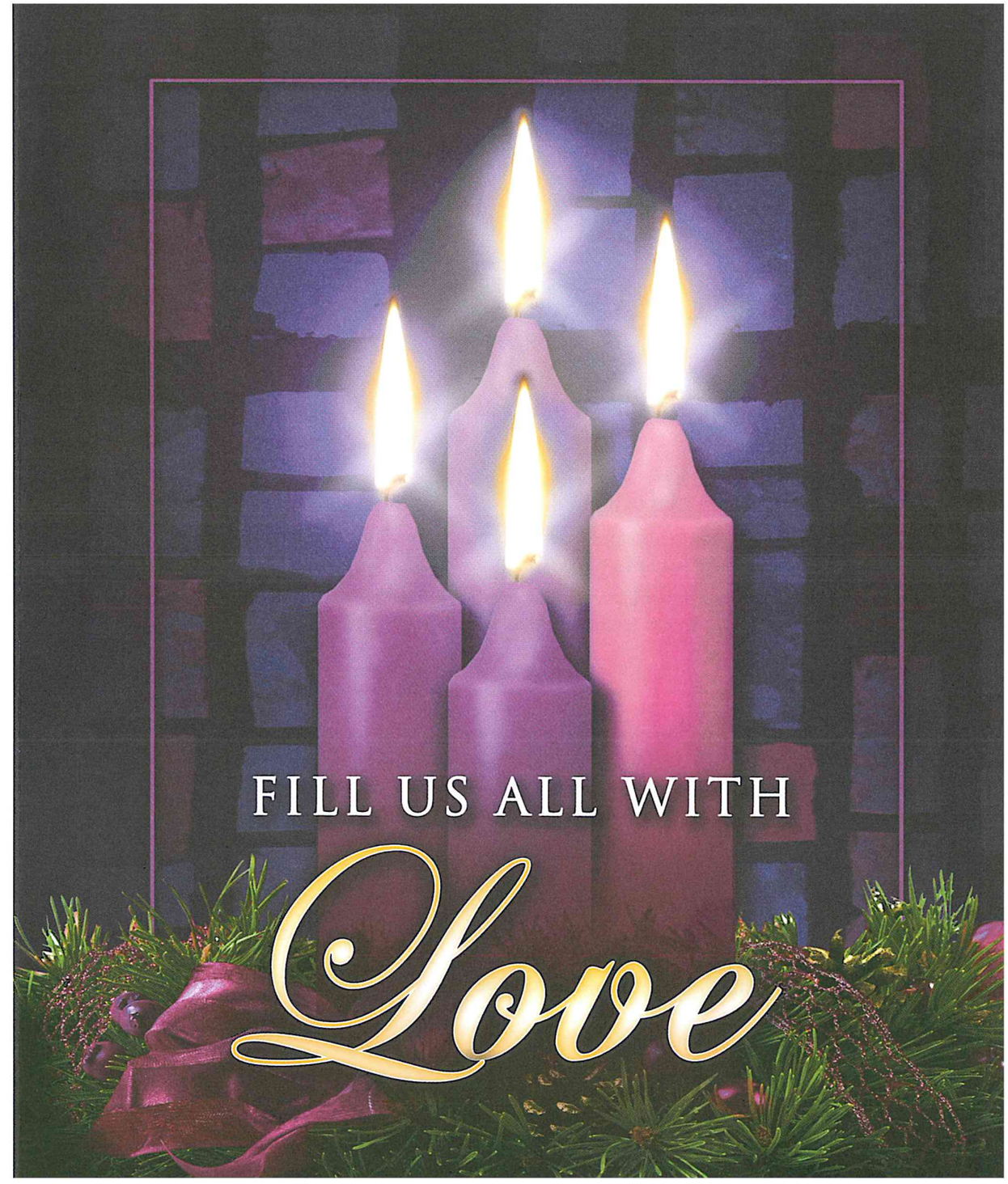

Los Altos
United Methodist Church

December 18, 2016 **8:30 AM**

✢ As you are able, please stand.
🕊 Prayer request cards are collected.

Children are Welcome!
Hearing assist devices are available from the ushers.

GATHERING

Prelude — Noël Suisse — L.C. Dacquin

Greeting

✢ Call to Worship — Rev. Mark Sturgess

One: In the midst of darkness, God brings a new light.
All: Thanks be to the God of light.

One: In the midst of confusion and fear, God brings hope and peace.
All: Thanks be to the God of peace.

One: In the midst of strife and stress, God comforts and soothes us.
All: Let us praise God who truly loves us and brings us new life. Amen.

✢ Opening Hymn — Angels From the Realms of Glory — UMH # 220 (vv. 1-2)

Lighting the 4th Advent Candle

Family: The prophet Isaiah declares, "A young woman is with child, and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel," which means: God-With-Us. The risen Christ declares, "I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Isa. 7:14 and Matt. 28:20)
We light this candle as a sign of God's presence in Christ, now and always…
(Light the fourth candle)

Family: that we may trust that God is with us and love in the light of Christ's coming –

All: Risen Christ, Light of the World, shine in our lives, and shine among us now.

✢ Opening Hymn (cont.) — Angels From the Realms of Glory — UMH # 220 (vv. 3-4)

✢ Opening Prayer

All: Lord of all life and all seasons, help us open our hearts to hear the words of promise and love that you send to us. Like Joseph, may we trust in your abiding love and power. Prepare us to receive your gift of grace and peace. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

✢ The Peace of Christ (greeting one another)

Our Life Together

(You are invited to fill out the yellow attendance cards and prayer requests.)

Prayer Quilt — Tina Pucilowski

PROCLAMATION

First Reading — Isaiah 7:10-16 — OT p. 636

🕊 Hymn — What Child is This — UMH #219

Gospel Reading — Matthew 1:18-25 — NT p. 1

* Responsive Collect

Holy and Loving God, whose Spirit rested on Joseph, calling him to parenthood,
and on Mary, preparing her for motherhood and birth,
by your Spirit, call and prepare us
for our relationships, our work and our ministry,
that we also may say, "Your will be done in us,"
to the glory of Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray, Amen.

Sermon — Parenthood Prophecy — Rev. Melinda T. Dodge

Carol — Peaceful, Silent Night — Schram
Thomas Cheeks, Amanda Breuer, Elise Noriega, Vocals
Mary Breuer, Flute, Derek Gordon, Piano

🕊 We are a community of gratitude and prayer and share together in that responsibility. Joys and prayer concerns may be shared by filling out a Prayer Request card in worship; they will be collected during the hymn noted by the dove.