

WELCOME VISITORS

Dear Visitors,

Welcome! We are so glad that you have chosen to celebrate Christmas with us.

If you are looking for a great community or a place to reconnect with your faith, we would love to have you join us. We welcome you to come as you are to any one of our three services on Sunday mornings with wonderful music, dynamic messages and Sunday school that kids love. Our 8:45AM and 11:00AM services are here in the Sanctuary and feature hymns and anthems presented by our 40 voice choir, dramatic pipe organ, and a wide variety of special musical ensembles. Our 10:00AM Sunday morning Service is across the courtyard in Fellowship Hall and features the music of the Worship Band.

La Jolla Presbyterian Church has a wide variety of programs available for every member of the family. You can find a complete schedule on our website: ljpres.org or download the LaJollaPres app on your phone or tablet. Here are some highlights:

- We are currently going through a sermon series called 'The Story'. It's a 31-week journey through the entire Bible. 'The Story' will resume on January 7th, looking at Chapter 15, the story of the prophet Elijah. 'The Story' books are available in the office for just \$10.
- Tonight, Paul taught about, 'Making room for Jesus'. When we make room, our lives are better. Here are some practical ideas you can try this week:

Tomorrow morning, before opening presents, read Luke Chapter 2, the story of the birth of Jesus. Or, pray and give thanks to God for the blessings in your life.

Join us next Sunday at 1st Presbyterian Church downtown to serve a warm lunch to 250 homeless guests. (1:00pm at 320 Date St., San Diego, CA 92101)

Get a copy of 'The Story' and read the Bible in an easy, compelling narrative, or better yet, join a discussion group, and talk about it. To find a group, contact Brooke Phelps at brookep@ljpres.org.

If you're looking for something more challenging, find someone in your neighborhood who's alone this season and bring them cookies or simply a warm visit.

There are a lot more opportunities for everyone here at La Jolla Pres from infants to seniors, we hope to see you here in the New Year. Merry Christmas!

La Jolla Presbyterian Church

To see photos and video, like LJPC on: [facebook.com/LaJollaPres](https://www.facebook.com/LaJollaPres)

To receive our weekly electronic newsletter, send an email to: newsletter@ljpres.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to Dr. Keith Pedersen, Director; members of the LJPC Chancel Choir; and William Lullo, Organist.

Please note that next Sunday, New Year's Eve, there will be one service at 9:30AM in the Sanctuary. Rev. Scott Mitchell will be preaching, and it will be his Installation service as the Associate Pastor of Congregational Care. Come support Scott, and celebrate his call. There will be a reception following the service in LC1.

There are also two terrific service opportunities next week: Before the worship service, we are moving in our Interfaith Shelter guests, who will be spending the night here for two weeks as they work to escape homelessness. Also, it's the 5th Sunday of the month, so we'll be helping at Ladle Fellowship. We go down to First Presbyterian Church in downtown San Diego to serve a warm lunch to 250 homeless people. This is a wonderful short term mission trip, and a beautiful way to cap the year. Meet at the fountain in the Courtyard before 12:00pm to carpool, or at First Pres. downtown at 1:00pm. Find details at reception. Please bring clothes for Ladle to distribute.

Please remember LJPC in your Christmas and End-Of-Year giving. Year end giving is extremely important to the financial health of the church. We are now almost through December, or 6 months into our fiscal year. We have received \$991,000 toward our budgeted income of \$1,278,000, so we are currently behind \$287,000. Let's close this gap. If you are able to make an end of year gift, it would be greatly appreciated. As a reminder, spending is also below budget. The staff and Session thank you for your generosity in any amount.

Budgeted Income Dec. 1-31 - \$455,000
Income Received Through Dec. 19 - \$227,000

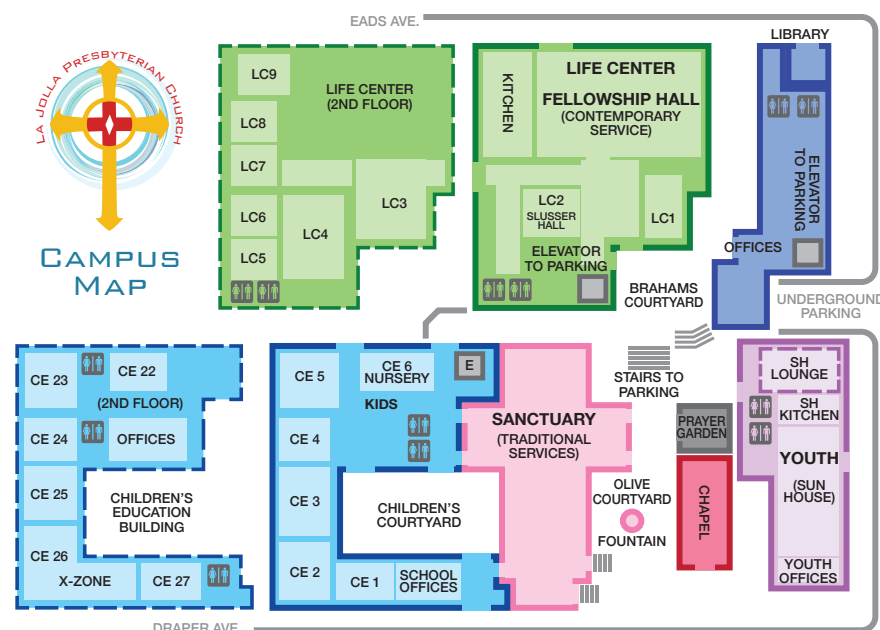
You may donate online at www.ljpres.org. Look for the "donate" button under "online giving". There are also 2016 tax advantages to donating gifts of stock or IRA rollover. This is a great time to bless the work we do with an end of year gift.

Share Your Christmas photos from tonight: Email photo@ljpres.org for our Facebook album or use the hashtag #ljpcchristmas.

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAYERS AND PRAISE: Healing and Comfort: Geri C. & Joseph C., Edith B-A., Theresa S., George B., Vlado A., and Carmello. **Strength, Protection, and Encouragement:** Jaime A., and Frank S. **We Also Pray For:** Neo and Ankit S. For prayers, praise, or to be included on the prayer list, email: prayerdeacon@ljpres.org by Sunday night to be included in the next week's bulletin. Requests are held in confidence.

FLOWERS: The flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Duane and Gail Nelles in Celebration of the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



7715 DRAPER AVENUE, LA JOLLA, CA 92037 858-454-0713 WWW.LJPRES.ORG



WE SEE JESUS TRANSFORMING LIVES IN THREE STORIES:
AS WE SHARE GOD'S STORY
AND HEAR YOUR STORY
WE DISCOVER OUR STORY

Merry Christmas! Unto Us a Savior is Born

PRELUDE *Gesu Bambino* Yon William Lullo, organist

WELCOME AND GREETING Rev. Dr. Paul Cunningham

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (7:00PM) Scott, Laura, Kate and Parker Mitchell

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (9:00PM) David and Isha Rymer

†**CHRISTMAS CAROL #193** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

Chorus - O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to god, all glory in the highest; (Chorus)

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
O Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; (Chorus)

†**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Isaiah 40:1-5 Page 1119
Rev. Dr. Paul Cunningham

†**OPENING HYMN #169** *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, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Scott Mitchell (7:00PM)
Rev. Mike Sedgwick (9:00PM)

O God, we come to you acknowledging our failures to live fully for you. We have allowed darkness to overcome light. In our hurry to get everything done, we have neglected the meaning of Advent and your birth. We have hardened our hearts and not seen nor heard the needs of others. God move us to compassion for those who are suffering. Forgive us for our selfish ways. Help us to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you. Help us to bring peace on earth and remove the obstacles that keep us from loving you and our neighbor. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CHRISTMAS CAROL #168 *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*
(please remain seated)

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us: Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King.
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Scott Mitchell (7:00PM)
Rev. Mike Sedgwick (9:00PM)

CHURCH LIFE

CALL TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Sing Noel Medley* arr. Hamilton
LJPC Chancel Choir
Andrew Konopak, bass
Dr. Keith Pedersen, director

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 1:18-25 Page 1497
Rev. Scott Mitchell (7:00PM)
Rev. Mike Sedgwick (9:00PM)

†**CHRISTMAS CAROL #178** *O Little Town Of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by:
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light:
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, The dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-7 Page 1590
Rev. Dr. Paul Cunningham

† Please stand if you are able. Our thanks for leaving your discarded bulletins at either end of your pew. Please place your candles in the box by the door on the way out.

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED Rev. Dr. Paul Cunningham

“Make Room”

SPECIAL MUSIC *Good Christians All Rejoice* Fettke/Grassi
LJPC Chancel Choir

LIGHT OF THE WORLD John 1:1-5 Page 1645
Rev. Scott Mitchell (7:00PM)
Rev. Mike Sedgwick (9:00PM)

Please remain seated as the choir comes to light your candles and we sing Silent Night. In order to avoid spilling melted wax, only the unlit candle should be tilted to receive light. Please extinguish after the carol.

CHRISTMAS CAROL #195 *Silent Night*

Silent Night, Holy Night; All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child; Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in Heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace

Silent Night, Holy Night; Shepherds quake, at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar; Heavenly hosts sing alleluia
Christ, the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born

Silent Night, Holy Night; Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy Holy face; With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus Lord at Thy birth

CLOSING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Dr. Paul Cunningham

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, forever. Amen.

†**CHRISTMAS CAROL #171** *Joy To The World*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King:
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow, Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

†**BENEDICTION** Rev. Dr. Paul Cunningham

†**POSTLUDE** *O Holy Night* Adam William Lullo, organist