

Advent 2023



Worship Celebration
December 3, 2023

Twin Towers United Methodist Church
1411 Oak Street, Alameda, CA 94501

510.522.6744 | twintowers.office@gmail.com | www.twintowersumc.org

WORSHIP GUIDE

Before you begin your time of worship, find a comfortable place to be and gather whatever you might need: your Bible, something to write on and with, your computer/connected device (if you intend to listen to music online), etc. Feel free to adapt this worship guide in any way that makes best sense to you and those you might be gathered with. (Consider inviting someone – a friend, a family member – to worship with you.) Commit to spending the next hour with God.

PRELUDE – Listen and sing along to a song or hymn that blesses and centers your spirit.

Advent Candle Lighting: Hope

Neva Moritani and Robert Pavacich

Advent Candle Lighting Hymn: “Light the Advent Candle” TFWS 2090 v. 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord!”

All: Make God’s paths straight.

Leader: Every valley will be filled, and every mountain will be leveled.

All: The crooked will be made straight.

Leader: The rough and rocky ways will be smoothed.

All: All will see the salvation of God.

Leader: See the light from on high. The dawn is breaking.

All: The Lord is coming! The Lord is coming!

OPENING HYMN – “I Want to Walk As A Child of The Light” UMH 206

SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 3:1-8a NRSV

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”’ 7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance.

SERMON – You can watch Pastor Akesa’s message [here](#).

ANTHEM OF RESPONSE – “Until Jesus Comes” W&S 3050 x2 through

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE – *Spend time in prayer. What did you hear for yourself through today’s scripture and reflection? Talk to God about it. Then lift up the joys and concerns that are in your heart. You might write them down, speak them aloud, or pray for them in silence.*

We would be honored to pray with you and for you. Please send a note via text, mail, or email or give a call to our Healing Prayer Team.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

How might you offer yourself and all that you have to God this week? How are you being invited to practice generosity? Spend a moment listening for God’s direction.

You are invited to contribute financially towards the purpose and ministry of TTUMC. We are a congregation committed to being conduits of God’s healing in our neighborhood and beyond, and in so doing, impact the last and the least. You can contribute by mailing in a check, dropping off cash, or giving online (visit <https://twintowersumc.org/give>).

HOLY COMMUNION

CLOSING HYMN – “People Look East” UMH 202 v. 1,2,4

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

NOW GO AND PASS CHRIST’S PEACE!

Announcements and Invitations

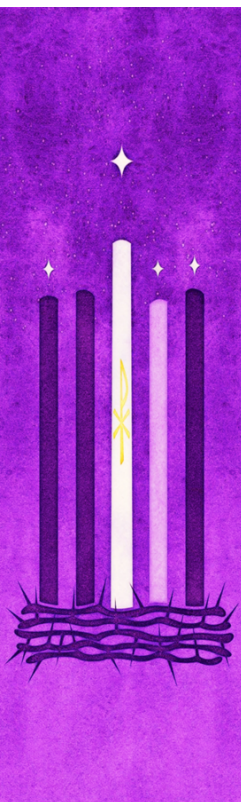
Volunteers Needed for December Dine & Connect Monday, December 4



Help us prepare and serve
115 meals for our
neighbors!

Shifts:

12 p.m.-3 p.m. - Cooking & Plating
4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Serving & Cleaning Up



[Friends of Wadi Foquin](#) and [Love Your Neighbor Coalition](#)
present an update on the current state of affairs in Wadi Foquin & the
West Bank in light of the situation in Gaza

**"A Palestinian View of Life
Under Israeli Military Occupation":
Understanding the relationship between
Gaza & the West Bank**

Tuesday, Dec. 5th, 2023
4:00 p.m. (PST) 7:00 p.m. (EST)

TWIN TOWERS UMC IS SUPPORTING
ALL GOOD LIVING FOUNDATION'S

Christmas For Kids

DONATE \$25 GIFT CARD(S) THAT
WILL GO TO THE CHILDREN SERVED
BY THE ALL GOOD LIVING
FOUNDATION.

DEADLINE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10



Lake Merritt United Methodist Church
presents

SOUND BATH

Join us every second Friday, beginning November 10th
7:00 – 8:30 pm

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church (Sanctuary)
1330 Lakeshore Ave, Oakland, CA 94606
Park on Lakeshore Ave at metered parking

Choose how you would like to experience the Sound Bath
(Bring your own mat or blanket/pillow)

Sitting – \$20
In chairs facing the sides of the center
stage, from the periphery of the church

Lying Down – \$35
Surrounding the center stage, on
carpeted and hardwood floors



Scan the QR code to purchase tickets.



California-Nevada Conference

The United Methodist Church

**Save the Date
Saturday, December 9, 2023**

Greetings Siblings of the California-Nevada Conference!

It is with extreme pleasure that we introduce to you the newly appointed District Superintendent of the Bay District, Reverend Sun Hee Kim.

You are all cordially invited to her Installation Service to be held Saturday, December 9, 2023, at 2:00 pm.

**Alameda, Twin Towers UMC
1411 Oak Street, Alameda, CA 94501
(510) 522-6744**

Installation 2:00 pm



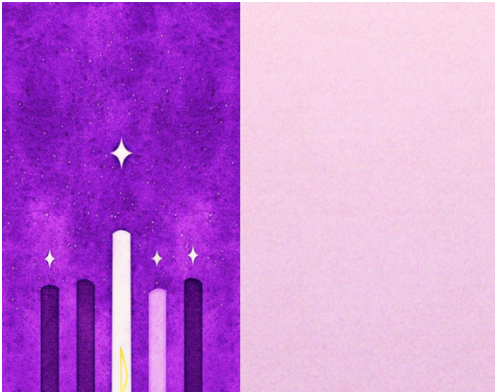
Join Twin Towers United Methodist Church for

Blue Christmas

A Blue Christmas service is offered especially for those feeling “blue” this Christmas. Join us on the longest night of the year to acknowledge the difficulties of life and to be reminded that you are not alone. We will gather in hope for healing as we journey together.

6:00 pm on December 21 | In-Person and Virtual

f @ttumcalameda



A Light Shines in the Darkness: Advent Morning of Reflection

In this season of growing darkness, it can be hard to see the light or experience how God is at work in the world. Yet “a light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it” (John. 1:5). If you need help seeing the light, join us for a morning of reflection. We’ll touch on the biblical themes of the season, have time for individual prayer and journaling, small group sharing, and large group conversation about how to keep our eyes on the Light of Christ. Bring a Bible and journal if you have one.

Led by Ann Naffziger, MA, MDiv

Saturday, December 16, 9:00-11:30 a.m.
St. Joseph Basilica (in the church building)
1109 Chestnut St., Alameda

No Registration Required.

TWIN TOWERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24 AT 6:00 PM
IN-PERSON AND ONLINE