

Mary's Meditation
Alexa Lopez, soprano

The Annunciation
Mark Shaull, baritone

He Shall Be Great

Magnificat
Diane Allen, soprano

Invitation to the Offering

Cedric Fellows

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God of deep joy, even when storms rage and doubts rise, you call us to see with kingdom eyes—to look for healing, hope, and signs of your grace breaking in. May our giving bear witness to your good news: that the blind still see, the lame still walk, and the poor still receive care. Use these offerings and us as signs of your coming reign, lights in the storm, and carriers of joy. In the name of Jesus, our hope and our Redeemer. Amen.

Offertory *March of the Three Kings* Daniel Gawthrop (1949)

*Doxology UMH 94

**THIS CHILD, THIS KING
SECTION III**

Where is He?

Herald Star in the East

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

And Now Is the Word Made Flesh

*Benediction Reverend Burke Owens

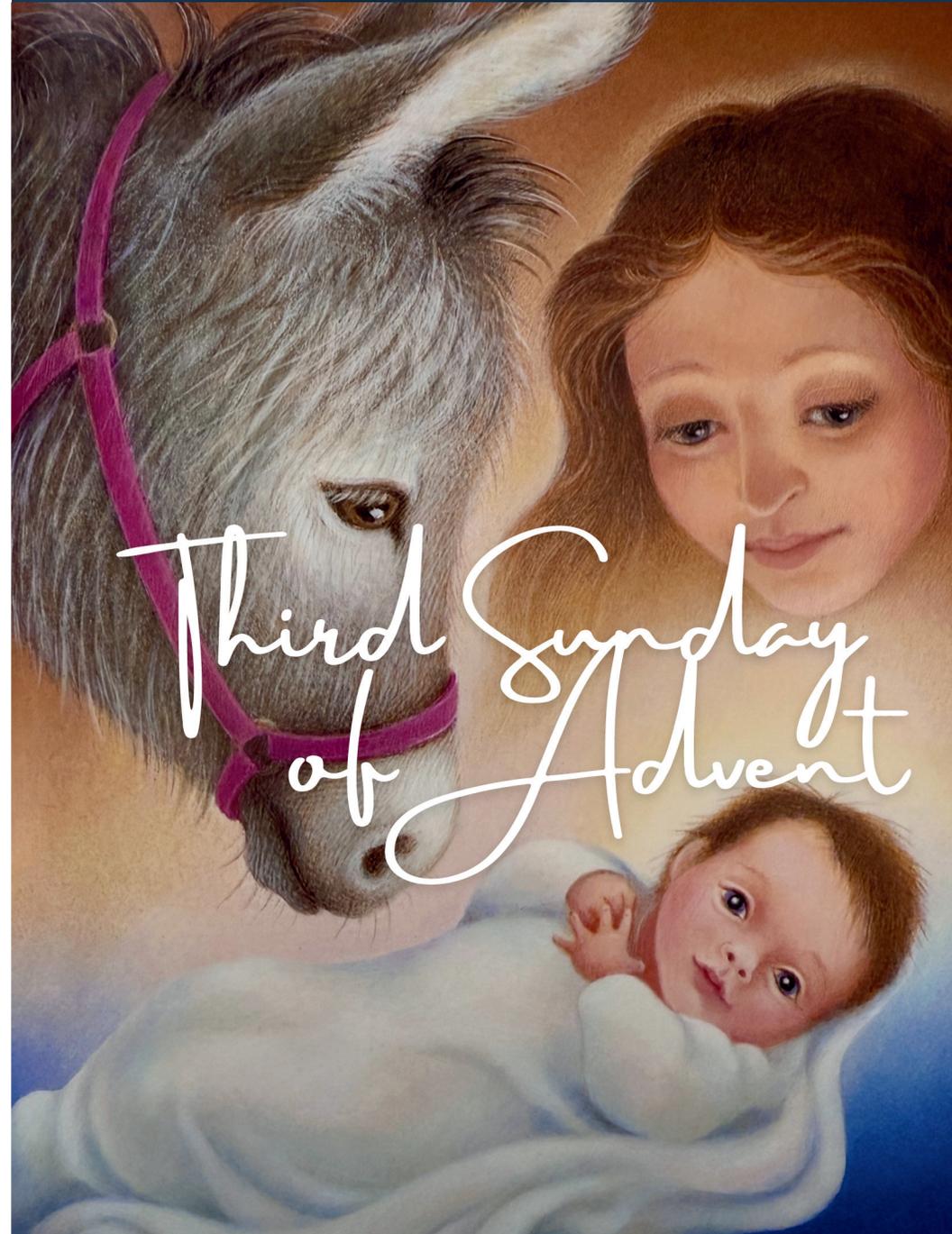
*Alleluia UMH 186

Postlude *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her* Max Reger (1873-1916)

Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory
of my wife, Lela Johnson Jones, by Harold Jones

Cover image from *The Donkey's Dream* by Barbara Helen Berger

*Please stand as you are able where indicated by an asterisk.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO
 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 SUNDAY DECEMBER 14, 2025

THIS CHILD, THIS KING
 Daniel Gawthrop (1949)

SECTION I

Nancy Whiteacre, synthesizer harp
 Diane Keller, organ
 John Gilchrist, timpani

Introduction

What Comes

Fear Not
 Mark Shaull, baritone

Glory to God

Prelude *People Look East* Dale Wood (1934-2003)

Welcome Reverend Burke Owens

Passing of the Peace

Life of the Community Cedric Fellows

Joy of Giving Nancy Olson

*Call to Worship Cedric Fellows

Beloved, we gather to rejoice in God who does wondrous things,
 who promises that someday all manner of things shall be well.

We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

We lift up our voices in song and story, in prayer and praise, as we remember
 and rejoice in all that God has done and will do among us.

We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

Come! Let us worship God with joy as we work with God toward the day when
 all of creation lives in everlasting joy.

Come! Let us rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

*Opening Hymn *The Friendly Beasts* UMH 227

1. Jesus, our brother, strong and good,
 was humbly born in a stable rude,
 and the friendly beasts around him stood,
 Jesus, our brother, strong and good.

4. "I," said the sheep with curly horn,
 "I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,
 he wore my coat on Christmas morn;
 I," said the sheep with curly horn.

2. "I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
 "I carried his mother uphill and down,
 I carried his mother to Bethlehem town;
 I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

5. "I," said the dove, from the rafters high,
 "I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry,
 we cooed him to sleep, my mate and I;
 I," said the dove, from the rafters high.

3. "I," said the cow, all white and red,
 "I gave him my manger for his bed,
 I gave him hay to pillow his head;
 I," said the cow, all white and red.

6. Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
 in the stable dark were glad to tell
 of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
 the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

Children's Moment Reverend Gerardo Garcia Palacios

Lighting the Advent Candle - Joy Garcia Palacios Family

**ALL: We choose to believe that the day is coming when "the ransomed of
 the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy
 shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow
 and sighing shall flee away." (Isaiah 35:10)**

*Scripture *Luke 2:1-5* Lucy Tompkin

Message *The Nativity Donkey* Reverend Burke Owens

Moment of Silence

Prayers of the People Reverend Burke Owens

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, for these gifts,
we give you thanks!

*Lord's Prayer Reverend Burke Owens

**Our Creator who art in heaven, hallowed be your Name. Your kingdom
 come, your 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
 evil, for yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

THIS CHILD, THIS KING
 SECTION II

Let Us See This Child, This King