

Church in the Forest

at Erdman Chapel, Stevenson School • 3152 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach • P. O. Box 1027, Pebble Beach, CA 93953 831.624.1374 • email: citf@mbay.net • www.churchintheforest.org

December 11, 2017

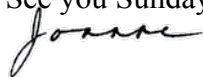
Dear Friends,

Why are we so drawn to the Christmas story?

N. T. Wright, esteemed New Testament scholar, complains that the Christmas story gets too much attention. “Jesus’s birth usually gets far more attention than its role in the New Testament warrants. Christmas looms large in our culture, outshining even Easter in the popular mind. Yet without Matthew 1–2 and Luke 1–2 we would know nothing about it. . . . One can be justified by faith with no knowledge of it.”

Wright protests our love of Christmas on grounds of theology and scripture. But let’s follow our hearts and explore why the nativity story touches us so deeply. This Sunday we’ll look at Joseph’s role in Jesus’s life. Joseph, especially, reveals why we care so deeply for this story and this baby.

See you Sunday!



The Rev. Joanne M. Swenson, Th.D.

Our **Christmas Eve Morning/Advent IV Worship** will be at our regular service time. A **Christmas Eve Night service begins with the Concertino at 5:30 pm followed by Candlelight Lessons and Carols, 6:00 pm** (*please note only ONE nighttime service*). The **Christmas Day Concertino is at 9:15 am followed by Festive Worship, 9:30 am.**

All service times and music information is listed on a bright, red postcard that is available at church. Take several and pass them around among your friends!

Please note: The **2018 Flower Calendar** is posted and awaiting your sign-ups! The sponsorship is \$75 and we can have two flower sponsors per week. Your generosity enables us to have beautiful, fresh flowers grace our sanctuary each week!

Small Groups are gatherings where CitF members and friends can explore faith and deepen fellowship. You are invited to...

- The *Small Group Bible Study*, **Sunday at 8:30 AM** in the Multipurpose Room. This Sunday’s study: Richard Rohr’s “Preparing for Christmas” meditation on Matthew 1: 1, 17–25.
- *Sisters in the Forest* introductory meeting! **Thursday, December 14, 12 noon–1:15 PM** (come when you can; leave when you must) Brown Bag Lunches Welcomed. Union Bank “Community Center” 615 Abrego Street, Monterey, easy parking on street and side streets.
- The *Men’s Small Group*, led by **Bob Axley and John Thorbeck**, will meet **Thursday, December 14, 10–11:30 AM**, in the Multipurpose Room. Please contact **Bob Axley** for more information on December plans and holiday interruptions: rjaxley@aol.com
- A *Small Group* for those who are grieving, led by the **Rev. Dr. Bill Rolland**, our minister emeritus and an expert in grief counseling, meets regularly. Please contact **Dr. Rolland** for more information on future meetings: wnbr727@gmail.com

Don’t miss the **Monterey Peninsula Community Choir** performing “Christmas with Gospel Flava” on **Saturday, December 16, at 5:00 pm**, Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula, 4590 Carmel Valley Road (1 mile east of Hwy 1). Visit: www.mpcgospelcc.org

Calendar

Sunday December 17, 2017 — Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM Bible Study in the Multipurpose Room led by the Rev. Ken Feske
Topic: Matthew 1: 1, 17–25

9:15 AM **Chapel Concertino**

9:30 AM **Morning Prayer**

Passages Isaiah 11: 1–6; Psalm 112; Matthew 1: 1, 17–25

Lector John Kessel

Crucifer Marilyn Gorman

Ushers Arlen and Cindy Lackey

Cookies Tonneke & Wim van der Linden

Flowers Dick and Sheila Crowell; Linda Banner

Altar Care Martha Jordan, Sandy Rice, and Linda Mackie

Sermon The Rev. Joanne M. Swenson, Th.D.

Title Sermon Series: “Light in the Forest”

This Sunday: “**Whose** Child is This”

The Advent Sermon Series will be in dialogue with Father Richard Rohr’s *Preparing for Christmas*. The congregation is encouraged to use this book for meditation during Advent. Purchase the book at the church or your bookstore.

Music Box

DECEMBER 17, 2017

**Laura Anderson, soprano
Melinda Coffey Armstead, piano & organ**

CHAPEL CONCERTINO

- King Jesus Hath A Garden trad. Dutch
arr. by Charles Wood (1866-1926)
- A Christmas Carol..... Ned Rorem (b. 1923)
- O Men From the Fields..... Arnold Cooke (1906-2005)
- The First Mercy.....Peter Warlock (1894-1930)
- Whence Comes This Rush of Wings Afar?..... trad. French carol
- The Birds.....Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

- A Christmas Hallelujah.....Leonard Cohen/Lance Stafford

- Noël - Grand jeu et duo.....Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

The Birds' Christmas Tree

The butcher gave some suet, and Farmer Brown some wheat;
And Uncle John a sheaf of oats, all for the birds to eat.

And then we strung cranberries, and pop corn, just for show,
And scattered lots of diamond dust to look like frost, you know.

On Christmas Eve we trimmed it, it made us laugh to see
How, in the morning, all the birds swarmed at their Christmas tree.

They ate the grain and suet; they liked them, I tell you!
And then they went to work and ate the decorations, too!

—Mary M. Parks

Melinda Coffey Armstead



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