

Church in the Forest

at Erdman Chapel, Stevenson School • 3152 Forest Lake Rd.
P. O. Box 1027 • Pebble Beach, CA 93953 • 831.624.1374
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Monday morning, November 26, 2018

Dear Friends,

This week we begin a new seasonal sermon series, “The Songs of Christmas.” Perhaps you roll your eyes when, at the mall, the dentist, the airport, or when you’re put “on hold,” you hear the first songs of Christmas. Christmas music is used to speed up buying, brighten dreary travel and sooth human stress.

But the church understands Christmas music best—its rightful rhythms and power. Rhythms? The church doesn’t actually perform Christmas carols until Christmas Eve. The four weeks before Christmas are Advent music—songs of longing, hope, penance and trust. And then on Christmas Eve and Day we break out the carols and sing, sing, sing!

Power? Each week of our Christmas Sermon Series we’ll focus on God’s gospel power, conveyed in the songs of scripture. It is fitting to convey the gospel in song. A song’s meanings outstrip the power of mere speech, just like the gospel. A song lifts and amplifies our emotions, just like the gospel. And a song is put into our mouths and souls—where the gospel belongs. It is satisfying to hear a good Christmas sermon, yet we may forget it by the next day. But a good Christmas song is repeated over and over. It sinks into our souls and reshapes our lives.

This week, Sunday, December 2, we’ll hear the Christmas songs of John the Baptist and Isaiah. Both imagine our lives as tree stumps. Are these stumps dead, even burned black (think about our wild fires)? Or are these stumps alive, with new shoots sprouting forth? In following weeks we’ll hear other biblical songs of utter trust, whole-hearted living, universal longing, deferred hope fulfilled.

Please invite your friends to join us for The Songs of Christmas—with no credit cards, dentists’ drills or lost baggage in sight!

See you Sunday,



The Reverend Joanne M. Swenson, Th.D.

Calendar

Sunday December 2, 2018 — 1st Sunday in Advent

9:00 AM Bible Study in the Multipurpose Room led by the Reverend Ken Feske. Topic: Matthew 3: 1–10

9:45 AM Chapel Concertino

10:00 AM Holy Communion

Passages Isaiah 11: 1–6; Psalm 72 (*selected verses*); Matthew 3: 1–10

Lector Lloyd Nattkemper **Crucifer** Skip Lord

Prayers of the People Mia Jarick

Oblation Bearer Liz Lord

Fellowship Rae Janzen

Flowers John & Judy Kennedy

Ushers Bob Janzen and ?

Altar Care Martha Jordan, Linda Hanel, Linda Mackie, Ruth Horn

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

Title Sermon Series: *The Songs of Christmas*

This Sunday: “*Singing to Remember*”

SAVE THE DATES: *Chapel Christmas Decorating Party*, Join the fun on **Saturday, December 8, 11 AM.**

Mark your calendar: **Christmas Eve** concertino at **5:30 PM** and service at **6:00 PM.** **Christmas Day** concertino at **9:45 AM** and service at **10:00 AM.**

In this season of celebration, please celebrate God’s work at our church by pledging your support for 2019. You can find pledge cards at church each Sunday. Please pray about your commitment and then complete the card, depositing it in the collection plate or mailing it to the church office. Your pledge enables us to plan for the coming year—salaries, music, fellowship gatherings, books, chapel decor, and more—the “more” God will reveal and your gift will enable!

SMALL GROUPS: *These are gatherings where CitF members and friends can explore faith and deepen fellowship.*

- The *Small Group Bible Study* is held **each Sunday at 9:00 AM** in the Multipurpose Room where the topic is the sermon Bible lesson of the day.
- *The Men’s Small Group Bible Study* gathers **November 29, 10–11:30 AM** in the Multipurpose Room, studying the life of King David (1 and 2 Samuel, 1 Kings) with inspiration from the Eugene Peterson book, “Leap Over a Wall.”
- *Women’s Bible Study* gathers on **December 6, 10:30 AM–12:00**, at the Beach Club. Always free and newcomers welcome.
- *CitF Women’s Small Groups* meet regularly for confidential sharing, accountability and prayer. Please contact **Pastor Joanne** for more information.
- The *Church in the Forest Book Club* resumes on **January 18, 5:30 PM** for wine, refreshments; **6 PM** discussion of Trevor Noah’s bestseller, “Born a Crime.” 549 Hillcrest Ave, Pacific Grove.

Music Box

DECEMBER 2, 2018

I CANTORI DI CARMEL

Susan Mehra, Conductor

Melinda Coffey Armstead, piano & organ

CHAPEL CONCERTINO FOR ADVENT I

Christmas in the Southwest.....Conrad Susa (1935-2013)

#1 Oh, mi Belen

#2 El Desembre Congelat

#4 A la Nanita Nana

#6 Campana Sobre Campana

#7 En Belen Tocan a Fuego

soloists: Astrid Holberg and Justin Huang

#9 Chiquiriquitin

Here we come a'caroling, trad. English carol

arr. by Josh Sparkman

Veni, Veni Emmanuel..... arr. by Paul Manz

Pastoral Symphony from MessiahG. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Noel - Grand Jeu et Duo Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

A warm welcome back to the members of **I Cantori di Carmel** who come to help us celebrate Advent I at CitF! This year their annual Christmas concerts are in the Carmel Mission on **Saturday, December 8 and Sunday, December 9, both at 8 PM**. There will be lovely Christmas music for the first half and the West Coast premiere of Cyril Deaconoff's cantata, *Canticles of Love, Despair and Hope* for the second half with full orchestra and soloists, including Katherine Edison, soprano.

Tickets online (www.icantori.org) or at the door.

EnJOY!

Melinda Coffey Armstead



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