

**Music Box**

— CHRISTMAS DAY — DECEMBER 25, 2011 —

**Melinda Coffey Armstead, piano**

*Reflective Meditations for Christmas*  
*Solo Piano Arrangements by Jay Rouse*

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne  
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus/Angels We have heard On High  
Lo, How A Rose E're Blooming  
Rejoice!

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring/It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Away In A Manger

Joy to the World!

Peace was the first thing the angels sang.  
Peace is the mark of the sons of God.  
Peace is the nurse of love.  
Peace is the mother of beauty.  
Peace is the rest of blessed souls.  
Peace is the dwelling place of eternity.

—Pope Leo I “the Great” (ca.391- 461)

*Melinda Coffey Armstead*



**Painless and Economical**

If you use the internet, why don't you have the weekly newsletter sent to you via email? It is fast, easy and saves the church money—here's what to do: Send an email to the office at [citf@mbay.net](mailto:citf@mbay.net) and ask Kay to put you in the list. You will receive it early every week!

**Address service requested**

**Church in the Forest**  
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P.O.Box 1027, Pebble Beach, CA 93953

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93953

# Church in the Forest

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Monday morning, December 19, 2011

Dear members and friends,

## Christmas

### The Greatest Journey

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”* —John 1:14

With grand and eloquent words, John describes that great mystery of the greatest journey of them all—God’s coming to earth to identify with us in flesh and blood, so becoming one of us. The mystery is not “what”—he was born a human baby. Nor is it “how”—Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit. Nor is it “when”—it took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Nor is it “where”—Mary gave birth to her baby in a stable in the city of David called Bethlehem. Nor is it “who”—the angel Gabriel provided his name when he told Mary, “You will call his name Jesus.”

No, the mystery is “why?” Why would God undertake such a risky and difficult venture? Why would God choose to become one of us, knowing that it meant abandonment, betrayal, bitter suffering and a cruel death?

Martin Luther explained it this way, “That we might be his own and live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. This is most certainly true.”

- What darkness in your life needs the light of Christ?
- What difference does it make that God became one with us?
- How would you explain the “why” of Jesus’ birth to someone?

*Prayers for the week:*

*Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let your light cast out the darkness of our lives. Amen.*

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*O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice; come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Amen.*

See you in church

*Bill*  
William B. Rolland



## CHRISTMAS IN THE FOREST

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**  
**Holy Communion — 7:00 and 9:30 PM**

*Music for voices, brass and organ*

**Christmas Sunday Service — 9:30 AM**

*We wish you a very Merry Christmas*

### Calendar

**Sunday, December 25, 2011 — Christmas Day**

**8:30 AM** *No Bible Study today*

**9:15 AM** **Music Prelude**

**9:30 AM** **Holy Communion**

**Passages** Isaiah 61:1-4 ; Psalm 126:, 11-13; Luke 2: 22-38

**Lector** Dick Crowell

**Crucifer** Judy Fletcher

**Flowers** Mary Wiltse and Art Grater

**Cookies** *will resume January 1*

**Altar Care** Kathryn Lawrence Hicks and Holly Tunstall

**Ushers** Kay Gameiro and Bob Fletcher

**Sermon** the Rev. Dr. William B. Rolland

**Title** What Anna said at Christmas

**Saturday, December 24, 2011 — Christmas Eve — 7:00 & 9:30 pm**

*Music Prelude one-half hour earlier at 6:30 & 9 pm*

**Wednesday, December 28, 2:00 pm, Memorial Service for Trannie Lee.**

**Sunday, January 1, 2012, First Sunday of the New Year, Holy Communion, and Charles Anker preaching.**

**Saturday January 7, 2012, 3:00 pm, Memorial Service for Rod Dresser**

**Sunday, January 8, 2012, Burning of the Greens at Bird Rock/Fanshell Beach at 4:30 pm —weather permitting!**