

Invitation

Among my favorite anthems of our Epworth choir is the beautiful and powerful, "I Believe." I suspect that you cherish this piece like I do. The lyrics are taken from a short poem found written on the wall of a Cologne, Germany basement where Jews had hidden during the Holocaust. In proclaiming,

*"I believe in the sun even when it's not shining,
I believe in love even when I don't feel it, and
I believe in God even when God is silent,"*
it underscores the power of faith that carries us through dark and difficult times.

This hymn will guide our Advent this year. We will miss some of the ways we have experienced our well-loved traditions, but we will still have Advent and Christmas! Some of our cherished traditions are being adjusted, and new events this year may become new traditions.

And really, what a blessing this is. Each year, we challenge ourselves to experience the birth of Jesus anew. I pray that the miracle of the incarnation—Christ out of chaos—will be real to you in new ways this season.

May the peace, hope, joy, and love of the season come into each day and into your heart.

Rev. Kristin Stoneking
Pastor



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I Believe Even When...

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
AT EPWORTH

Online Worship

Through our Advent theme of "I Believe Even When...", we share words of comfort, challenge, and good news through scripture, song, preaching, and special messages for children. Watch on Facebook, YouTube, and at www.EpworthBerkeley.org/worship

I BELIEVE IN THE SUN: HOPE FOR TOMORROW

Sun., Nov. 29 at 10 AM

Scripture: Mark 1:1-15 and Isaiah 40:1-11

I BELIEVE IN LOVE: DARING RIGHT RELATIONSHIP

Sun., Dec. 6 at 10 AM

Scripture: Mathew 1:1-25 and Isaiah 7:1-14

I BELIEVE IN GOD: ODE TO JOY

Sun., Dec. 13 at 10 AM

Scripture: Luke 1:1-4; 26-52 and Isaiah 57:14-19

I BELIEVE IN THE LIGHT: ILLUMINATING PEACE

Sun., Dec. 20 at 10 AM

Scripture: John 1:1-18 and Isaiah 9:2-7

WE BELIEVE, EVEN NOW CHRISTMAS EVE

Thurs., Dec. 24 at 11 PM

scripture: Luke 2:1-20 and Isaiah 52:7-10

BELIEVE THIS: THE TIME HAS COME

Sun., Dec. 27 at 10 AM

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40 and Isaiah 61:10-62:3

All times are Pacific Standard Time (UTC -8)

Special Events

Masks will be required and social distancing between households must be maintained at all times. Please dress for the weather; bathrooms and indoor access will be restricted. Events subject to change. Please RSVP on our website: www.EpworthBerkeley.org/advent

WEEKLY CANDLELIGHT WITNESS

Sundays 11/29, 12/6, 12/13 at 5:30-6 PM

Bring a candle to fill the night with light. We will stand along the perimeter of Epworth on Napa & Hopkins Streets and bear witness to the Advent spirit.

CANDLELIGHT LABYRINTH WALK

Fridays 12/4, 12/11, 12/18 - 7-8 PM

Center yourself in prayer through a meditative labyrinth walk.

LIVE NATIVITY

Sun., Dec. 20 - 3-5 PM (Rain date: Tues., Dec. 22)

The nativity story—complete with the Holy family, angels, shepherds, and real animals—comes to life on the Hopkins Street lawn!

CHRISTMAS EVE PILGRIMAGE - JOURNEY TO THE MANGER

Thurs., Dec. 24 - 3-5 PM

Beginning at the Hopkins Street lawn, walk a five station path and experience the hope, peace, joy, and love of the season, culminating at the manger outside the sanctuary doors.

Give

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Donate online: www.EpworthBerkeley.org/donate

Our special Christmas offerings will support:

- Epworth's Sanctuary Action Team accompanies families seeking asylum in the US. Support is wide-ranging: from escorting to court hearings, to donations of food and financial assistance with everyday needs.
- Alameda County Community Food Bank provides healthy meals to our neighbors in need and works to end hunger and poverty in our community.

Community

This year more than ever, the need to break away from isolation and come together in community is so important. Find Zoom meeting links and complete calendar of events on our website: www.EpworthBerkeley.org/advent

BLUE CHRISTMAS RITUAL

Mon., Dec. 21 - 7:30-8:15 PM on Zoom

We gather on the longest night of the year, mindful of the losses of life, livelihood, love, liveliness and light we have experienced and offer hope and healing.

WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP

Mondays, 7:30-8 PM on Zoom

We lift each other and our communities up in prayer, and bear witness to the movement of the Spirit in our life and world.

WEEKLY COMMUNION SERVICE

Wednesdays, 7:30-8 PM on Zoom

In the gift of holy communion, we are reminded that Jesus remains with us through the power of the Holy Spirit in the bread and wine.

Advent at Home

Take-home kits can be picked up from Susan Jardin's porch—located at 1950 Hopkins—across the street from Epworth.

ADVENT WORKSHOP

TAKE-HOME KITS

Pick up dates: Sun., Nov 29 throughout December
Festive, family-friendly crafts, including Christmas ornaments and luminaria.

BLUE CHRISTMAS TAKE-HOME KITS

Pick up dates: Sun., Dec. 15 thru Mon., Dec. 21
Set of blue and white candles and prayers for the Blue Christmas ritual.