

December 7, 2025

Sunday at PCC

As we continue our Advent series, What Do You Fear?, we meet John the Baptist asking a hard question from prison: “Are you the one?” When fear and exhaustion thin our hope, Jesus doesn’t shame the question—he points us toward quiet signs of transformation already unfolding. Join us as we explore how trembling hope still makes room for God’s new thing.



Advent Sing-a-long During Teatime!

Please join us for a Tea Time Advent sing along featuring some old favorites and some new songs to learn in place of our usual monthly Sabbath Sunday lunch.

Please also note that on December 14th, we will have a regular Tea Time without Advent activities so that all may fellowship together.

Prayer List

Please continue to surround **Angie Snead and her family** with prayers, as her beloved husband, Michael Serra, passed away last week. Angie is grateful to everyone for your prayers and concern.

Continued prayers for Lesley Kraechen’s mother, Linda, who is scheduled for open heart surgery soon.

Please pray for **Frances Low**, as she has moved to assisted living in South San Francisco, close to her son Vincent’s home. She welcomes calls, notes, and visitors.

Prayers for **Kelvin Chan**, brother of Joe Tanizawa’s girlfriend, Melanie Chan, as he copes with a recent diagnosis of prostate cancer and takes tests to see if the cancer has spread.

Prayers for all immigrants living in fear, as families continue to be separated by the alarming tactics and policy changes of the administration.

Today's Hymns and Scripture Passages

Opening

**Comfort, Comfort
You My People**
87 in Glory to God

Communion

**Jesus Thou Joy
of Loving Hearts**
494 in Glory to God

Closing

Now Thank We All Our God
643 in Glory to God

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Isaiah 43: 19-21
Matthew 11: 1-11
.....

Advent Devotional link

Tied in carefully with the theme for each Sunday’s worship, the devotional is offered as tool to help you prepare for or reflect afterward to remember that even in these days where it seems the world is moving backwards, we are called forward.

Teatime hosts are needed!

Click on the link below to sign up. See Mary Wong Leong if you have questions.



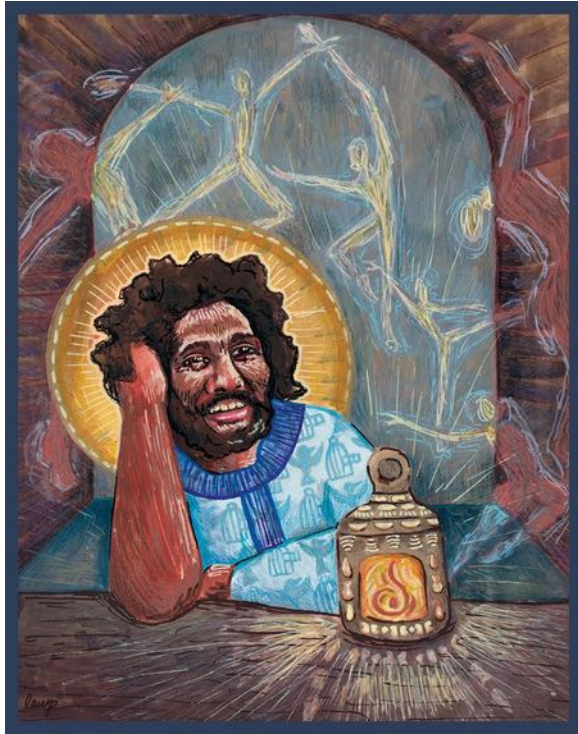
TEATIME SIGN UP



The Second Sunday of Advent

| **What do you fear?**

WHEN WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF HOPE, GOD IS AT WORK



Hope Like a Dancer

by Lauren Wright Pittman

John the Baptist was thrown in prison after publicly questioning the legality of Herod's marriage (Matthew 14:3-5). He was not afraid to go toe-to-toe with the powerful, and perhaps he expected Jesus' ministry to look more confrontational and politically strategic. In questioning Jesus, I wonder if John sought a particular answer to hang his hope on, that maybe the Messiah would be how he'd imagined him. Maybe Jesus would bust him out of jail and take things straight to Herod, but Jesus offers something else.

In this image, John sits in prison, letting the disciples' testimony settle in. People with hearing, visual, and physical impairments experience new senses and mobility. Those with skin diseases are cleansed.

Those with little material comfort are offered irrepressible hope, and the lungs of the dead are filled with the breath of life. I decided to image this good news through the dancing light of a lantern¹ in John's prison cell. I chose dancing figures because dancing feels like a primal response to the radical healing taking place outside the prison walls. As these six dancers illuminate the cell, I imagine John, even if for a moment, breaking into a bit of laughter at the magnitude of Jesus' ministry. Jesus was quite literally doing the unimaginable. He was removing barriers so that the marginalized were no longer reduced to begging and sitting on mats, shoved to the edges of society. He was not only healing physical ailments; perhaps more importantly, he was restoring people to community.

Out of all the miraculous actions mentioned, the news did not include "release of the captives" (Luke 4:18-19).² With this message, John would know that he was not going to be freed,³ and so, the number of dancers would remain one short of seven.⁴ As we know all too well, God's work isn't completed in Jesus' time. We are still woefully short of realizing the fullness of God's desire for all of creation, and the work is ours to see through. Until then, let us keep our eyes peeled for the glimmers of hope dancing all around us and work toward a day when all can join in that dance of wholeness.

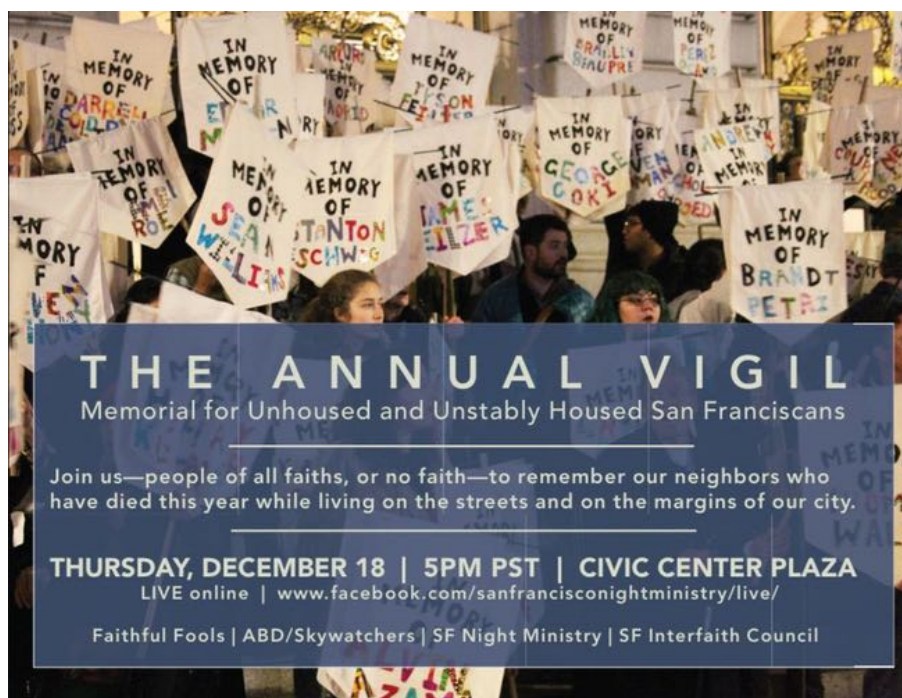
—REV. LAUREN WRIGHT PITTMAN

1 The lantern has very simplified shapes representing each of the miracles (received sight: eyes opening; walking: footprints; cleansed: bowls; hearing: volume symbols; raised: butterflies; good news: jar and anointing oil drops representing the Messiah).

2 John's clothing includes open bird cages and birds taking flight, which represent how "release of the captives" is missing in the message he receives from Jesus.

3 Bonnie L. Pattison points this out in her commentary on Matthew 11:2-19 in *Feasting on the Gospels: Matthew, Volume 1*, edited by Cynthia A. Jarvis and E. Elizabeth Johnson (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013), 286.

4 The number 7 represents wholeness or completion. This podcast episode provides more information about the symbolic use of the number 7 in the Bible: bibleproject.com/podcast/significance-7/



Harvest Homecoming A Success!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Harvest Homecoming at Cameron House! It was a lovely and joyful reunion. Your generosity and enthusiasm for the Harvest Market Pantry stocked the shelves for our clients. Click [HERE](#) to see the event's photos.

Because so many families are turning to us for support, the shelves of the Harvest Market Pantry are already running low. If you're able, we're asking for more donated culturally-appropriate, unopened, unexpired, shelf stable foods and plastic bags. Every bag of non-perishable items helps us continue providing dignity, nourishment, and care to our community.

Thank you for helping us keep our Harvest Market Pantry stocked for the 500+ Cameron House social services clients, youth program participants, and their families this season.

Women's Fellowship Christmas Party

Saturday, December 13th / 2:00-4:00pm

PCC Fellowship Hall

Please bring snacks, appetizers or cookies to share. This year, we are collecting items for the Asian Prisoner Support Committee. See page 4 for more information.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s and one of the three annual PCUSA church-wide special offerings we participate in. The offering will be collected throughout the month of December.

Please click onto this [link](#) and click Christmas Joy to view stories of impact and engagement through the support of your donation to PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering. Please donate on-line or write a check to PCC-English with an annotation in remarks showing Christmas Joy Offering. Donation envelopes and bulletins are available at church if you attend in person. Please give generously. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. May our gifts, and the leaders who receive them, point us always to the truth of the one whose birth we celebrate, Jesus Christ — the truly perfect gift.

2026 Mission Trips

The Mission & Evangelism Committee is looking at possible Mission Trips for next year.

February 2026: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has recently set up a site on the island of Maui. It is a Congregational Church led by a Presbyterian Pastor. The site will be commissioned on February 22nd, so we would try to go around then. Click [HERE](#) for more information about the site.

April/May 2026: PDA in Oroville, CA

Fall 2026: Oroville or Maui?

Contact Scott Barlow if you are interested: sbgencon@aol.com. 415-710-9759.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER

13

2 - 4 P.M.

PCC FELLOWSHIP HALL



PLEASE BRING SNACKS, APPETIZERS, OR
COOKIES TO SHARE. DRINKS PROVIDED.

THIS YEAR WE ARE COLLECTING NON-PERISHABLE
FOOD FOR ASIAN PRISONER SUPPORT COMMITTEE:
WWW.ASIANPRISONERSUPPORT.COM.

ITEMS REQUESTED: INSTANT NOODLES, CUP-A-NOODLES,
TEA BAGS, CRACKERS, GRANOLA OR PROTEIN BARS,
INSTANT OATMEAL PACKETS, SHELF-STABLE SNACK PACKS



Let's celebrate together!

Contact Pat Chan or Linda Lee
if you have any questions.

