

South Hayward United Methodist Church

Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

December 9, 2012 -- 10:30 AM

****Those Who Are Able, Please Stand (PLEASE, silence your Cell Phone)**
Child Nursery available – Just Ask an Attendant

WE ENTER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE & PROCESSION OF THE LIGHT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Christmas Carols

SHUMC WIND & STRING ENSEMBLE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Exie, Cora and Karen Granadosin

WELCOME

The message of God's salvation is like a refiner's fire or fuller's soap—cleansing us of our impurities. While the advent of the Messiah is marked with hopeful expectation, preparing for that arrival places demands upon our lives. With words that confront our complacency, John the Baptist warns us to repent and amend our lives. Christ is coming—bringing hope, eagerness, and anticipation, but also a little fear and trepidation.

****INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Christ comes like a refiner's fire, burning away the impurities within.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Christ comes like fuller's soap, cleansing our sin and purifying our hearts.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Christ comes like a master gardener, bearing a harvest of righteousness.

****INVOCATION (unison)**

God of mystery, you enter the wilderness of our lives, calling us to prepare for Christ's coming. Fill the valleys of our hearts and bring low the mountains of our pride and conceit. Make straight the paths of our feet, that we may follow in your ways. Smooth out the rough edges of our souls—edges that chafe those we should hold close—and guide our feet in the ways of peace. As we prepare once more for the advent of your Son, keep us in full fellowship with you and with one another, that our lives may bear a harvest of righteousness. Amen.

****HYMN OF PRAISE**

"Heralds of Christ"

UMH#567

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

CHILDREN'S TIME

****THE PEACE OF CHRIST IS GIVEN TO ALL**

ONE: The peace of the living Christ be with you all!

ALL: And also with you!

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

HEAVEN'S CHILD

South Hayward United Methodist Church Chancel Choir

Exie Granadosin – Choir Director

Ed Keller - Pianist

SHARING OUR JOYS & CONCERNS

