

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
**December 28, 2025**  
**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, YEAR A**

Ringling of Outdoor Bell @ 10:00 AM  
**Rev: Jaime Torres**

**Liturgist: Dan Michel**  
**Reader: Joanna Michel**

**Bell Choir**  
**Gathering Hymns “This is the Day” “Here I am to Worship”**  
**Call to Worship**

L: Beloved, we have waited, watched, and witnessed the coming of the Christ child. As we gather today on the other side of Christmas, we might be tempted to ask, “What now?”

**P: We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.**

L: In this season of Christmas, we remember that though Christ has come among us, the good news of freedom for captives, flourishing for the poor, and power returned to the disempowered does not reign in so many places.

**P: We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.**

L: With Mary and Joseph, we listen for God to show us how to protect and advocate for the vulnerable among us.

**P: We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.**

L: As we gather to worship today, may God bind us together in love, empowering us to live as followers of the Christ child who declare good news wherever we go.

**P: We gather today as people who wait, watch, and work for the day that all the earth awaits.**  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**All: Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child, those who dropped all that they were doing and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world. We would like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability, who tickled and cuddled and comforted the growing child, that he might know love and safety. And yet, merciful God, we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod. Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions, find our own need for control more compelling than the needs of others for health and safety. Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than advocating for the rights of the oppressed. Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit, or power, or because we fear to know, and to change, the injustices of this world. Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost. In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.

**Liturgist:** Passing the Peace: May the peace of Christ be with you

**People: And, with you!** (Please be brief as you pass the peace of Christ and greet one another.)

**Children's Message**

Marcia Heerema

**Liturgist: Prayer before the Offering**

Steadfast God of refuge and promise, even when the world makes no room, even when fear seems stronger than hope, you are with us. In the flight to Egypt, in the cries of grief, in the fragile beginnings of new life, you make a way. Receive these gifts, O God, as signs of our willingness to make room for your kingdom among us. Use what we bring—not just our treasure, but our time, our voices, our compassion—to heal what is broken, to protect the vulnerable, and to embody your saving love. In the name of Jesus, our Light in the shadows. Amen. ([Matthew 2:13-23](#))

**Offertory**

Song / Music

Joy Asenas

**Doxology:**

**UMH # 94**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayers, Concerns and Celebrations of the week .....**

**Pastor:** The Lord's Prayer

**UMH # 895**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the Glory forever. Amen.

**Preparation Hymn “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” UMH # 139 verses 1, 3, & 5**

**Scripture Readings**

**Old Testament Isaiah 63: 7-9**

**New Testament Matthew 2: 13-23**

**Message “Signs and Power”**

**Rev. Jaime Torres**

**Hymn of Commitment “How Great Thou Art” UMH # 77**

**Prayer for Going Forth Liturgist and People:** Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. In Jesus' name. Amen. (J. Wesley, England, 18<sup>th</sup> Century).

**Announcements:** Coffee house Fridays 11:30 a.m.; Pastoral Evangelism Thursday's; Next Sunday is Communion Sunday; SPRC meeting and Governing board meeting coming soon.

**Blessings for the people (Pastor)**

Family of Christ, go now into the world in the blessing and power of the Triune God to resist the misuse of power in our world, to point to the signs of good news all around us, and to work for the empowerment and flourishing of all people, especially the vulnerable among us. Amen.

**Closing song** May the God of Peace be with you, holding you in strong fingered hands, and may you be an instrument of God's peace, to those whose hands you hold, and may the blessings of peace, be with you, be with you, be with you. **\*Please stand as you are able in body or spirit**

### OUR APPRECIATION TO:

Rev.  
Liturgist  
Reader  
Greeters  
Pianist  
Children's Sermon  
Adult Education Director  
Lay Leader  
Videographer  
Office Admin

Jaime Torres  
Dan Michel  
Joanna Michel  
You  
Joy Asenas  
Marcia Heerema  
Laura Shaw  
Susan Johnson  
Eric Nelson  
Cristina Mendez

### Upcoming Events

### Bible and Book Studies

#### "Disciple 2"

Monday's 10:00 – 12:00 Noon  
Laura Shaw facilitating on ZOOM

#### "January Series"

Beginning January 13th  
Tuesday's 1:00 – 3:00pm  
Laura Shaw facilitating on ZOOM

### Our Mission

Bardsdale United Methodist Church is a loving, caring,  
Christ centered church,  
growing in relationship with God, ourselves, and all others.

### Our Vision

With God's help we will  
Foster personal growth,  
Promote participation by all ages,  
Embrace new ideas, and  
Be more visible and engaged in our community.

### December Birthdays

9th Carolyn Diaz

## **BARDSDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, YEAR A**

**December 28, 2025**

Rev. Jaime Torres M. Div.~ phone: (562) 445-5659



**OPEN HEARTS \* OPEN MINDS \* OPEN DOORS**

Church office Hours  
M-F 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
**1498 Bardsdale Ave., Fillmore, CA 93015**  
**Office Phone (805) 524-2070**  
**Website: [bardsdaleumc.org](http://bardsdaleumc.org)**  
**Email: [office@bardsdaleumc.org](mailto:office@bardsdaleumc.org)**

Four days ago, we were rejoicing at the manger. Today, we hear a story that, unfortunately, is in all-too-familiar tale of powerful rulers using violence to maintain their control and influence.

Bishop – Rev. Dr. *Dottie Escobedo-Frank*

North District DS – Rev. *Garth Gilliam*