Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023, 10:00 am

Please take a moment to silence your cellphone. Thank you.

Please also note that our services are publicly livestreamed.

Purple was the traditional color of Advent, a color that represents penitence and fasting, as well, as royalty. Purple will continue to be the traditional color of Lent. But for Advent, we shall use deep blue, as other churches have come to do, because deep blue represents the Advent themes of expectation, hope and anticipation of the dawn of Christ. It is the color in the sky before the sun rises, encouraging us to keep watch for the promised light of Christ to break over the horizon, changing night into day. The use of blue has deep historical roots.

The origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen and lighted fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. Christians kept these popular traditions alive to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light. Traditionally, the wreath is made of four blue or purple candles in a circle of evergreens, with a central white candle lit on Christmas Eve and Day. The meaning assigned to each candle varies by tradition.

The Word of God

Prelude

"The Angel Gabriel"

arr. David Knight

Please stand as able, and join in singing,

Processional Hymn

nal H	ymn]	Prepa	are th	le W	ay, C) Zio	n			H	lymn	#65, vv. 1-3
4		Pre - He Fling	bri	ngs (God's	way, rule, gates,	0 0 0	o. Zi Zi Zi	- on, - on; - on;	he	Christ comes Sa -	from	heaver	- ing n a - em -	
6	ø	0	•	0	•	0		0.				•	0	•]
°	near! bove brace	_ I	His	rule		hill peace of	and	free	- do	m, an	lev djus o-clair	- tice	, truth,	ap - and - ery	
	pear	9 _ G1 _ L	reet ift	P One high	who	o com	es in se re	glc glc e - sou	- 1 nd - i1	y, fo	re-told	in the and	sa - joy will	cred a -	
	sto - bound -	ry. ing.	Oh, Oh,	, ble	est is	S Chr	rist th	nat o	ame_		in Goo	d's mo d's mo	st ho st ho	- ly - ly	
16 8 #	dore name. name. name.	nim.		, ble	2St 18	s Chr	ist tr	iat (ame_	:	in Goo	us mo	st ho	- ly	



Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; Charles P. Price (b. 1920), © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: "Bereden väg för Herran," melody from "Then Swenska Psalmboken," 1697; harm. "Koralbok för Svenska Kyrhan," 1939, alt.

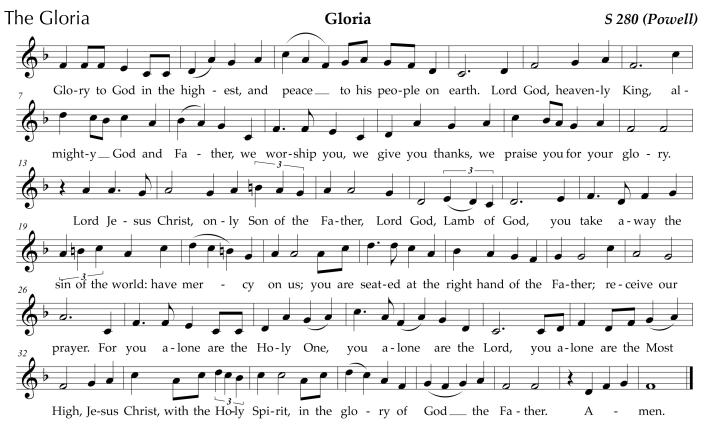
The Opening Acclamation

CelebrantBlessed be God, ★ Father, Son and Holy Spirit.PeopleAnd blessed be God's kingdom, now and
for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

- Celebrant Almighty God,
- All to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please remain standing as able, and join in singing,



Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932), S-280 The Hymnal, 1982

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A family steps forward:

Leader Today we light the first, second and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, and the third candle is JOY.

The candles are lit.

- Leader "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands." (Isaiah 55:12)
- People Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.

The First Lesson Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 1st Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah. The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zionto give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,

and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise

to spring up before all the nations.

- 1^{st} Reader The Word of the Lord.
- People Thanks be to God.

The Response Psalm 126 In convertendo

Reader Let us read from Psalm 126 responsively (the People reading the text in **bold**).



Words: Psalm 126. Music: Marty Haugen (b. 1950), Psalms for the Church Year, V. 2, © 1988 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc. International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved.

Refrain

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *

then were we like those who dream.

and our tongue with shouts of joy.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *

3 Then they said among the nations, *

"The Lord has done great things for them."

4 The Lord has done great things for us, *

and we are glad indeed.

5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *

- like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears *

will reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *

will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. *Refrain*

The Second Lesson 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

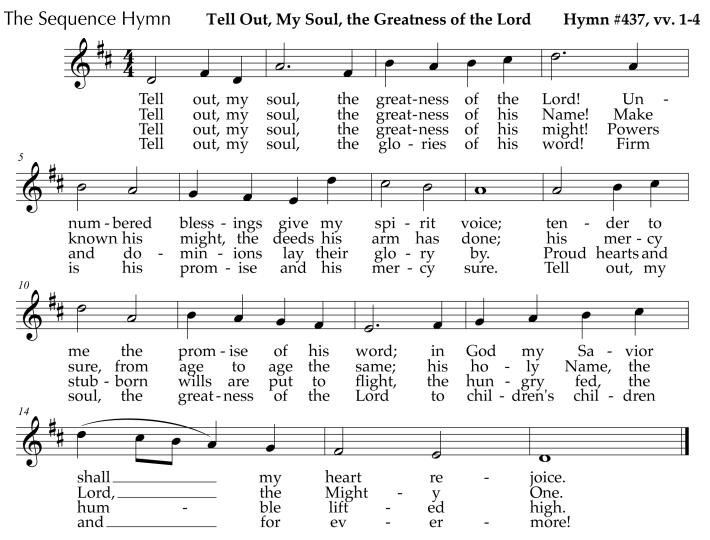
2nd Reader A Reading from the second letter of Peter.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

2nd ReaderThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

Please stand as able, and join in singing,



Words: Timothy Dudley Smith (b. 1926), based on "The Song of Mary," Copyright © 1962 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL. 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: "Birmingham," frm "Repository of Sacred Music, Part II," 1813; harm. "Songs of Praise," 1925.

Please remain standing, as able, for

The Holy GospelJohn 1: 1-9, 19-28DeaconThe Holy Gospel ♥ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.PeopleGlory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

"Make straight the way of the Lord" ',

as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

DeaconThe Gospel of the Lord.PeoplePraise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated for,

The SermonThe Rev. Jason ShelbyThere will be a moment of silence for reflection following the sermon.Please stand as able, and join in saying,

The Nicene Creed

All	We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,							
	maker of heaven and earth,							
	of all that is, seen and unseen.							
	We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,							
	the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,							
	God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,							
	begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.							
	Through him all things were made.							
	For us and for our salvation							
	he came down from heaven:							
	by the power of the Holy Spirit							
	he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made human.							

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please remain standing, as able, for

The Prayers of the People (the People read the responses in **bold**) Deacon Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Silence Deacon Lord, in your mercy People Hear our prayer. Deacon Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Silence Deacon Lord, in your mercy People Hear our prayer. Deacon Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its re sources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Silence Deacon Lord, in your mercy People Hear our prayer. Silence Deacon Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Deacon Lord, in your mercy People Hear our prayer. Silence Deacon Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence		
Deacon People	Lord, in your mercy Hear our prayer.	
Deacon	We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdo	
Silence		
Deacon People	Lord, in your mercy Hear our prayer.	
Celebrant:	Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.	

Please kneel, as able,

The Confession of Sin

Deacon All	Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. Most merciful God ,						
	we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,						
	by what we have done,						
	and by what we have left undone.						
	We have not loved you with our whole heart;						
	we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.						
	We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.						
	For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,						
	have mercy on us and forgive us;						
	that we may delight in your will,						
	and walk in your ways,						
	to the glory of your Name. Amen.						

The Absolution

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy ♥ on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**.

Please stand, as able,

The Peace

Celebrant	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People	And also with you.

Ministers and People exchange signs of peace in the name of the Lord.

Please be seated.

Welcome, Announcements

Anyone who has a birthday or anniversary in the next week is invited to come forward for a blessing: All Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Holy Communion

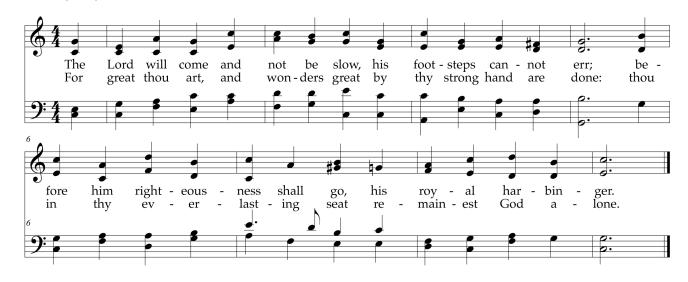
Offertory Anthem

"O Come, Emmanuel"

Elaine Hagenberg

O come, O come, Emanuel, and ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. O come, O come thou Dayspring come and cheer our spirits by Thine Advent here, And drive away the shades of night, and pierce the clouds and bring us light! Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to Thee, O Israel. O come, O come, Desire of nations, bind all people in one heart and mind; Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease, and fill the world with Heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to Thee, O Israel.

> *St. Francis Choir Mark Bassett, cello*



Offertory Hymn The Lord Will Come and Be Not Slow Hymn #462, vv. 1, 5 (Tune: #680)

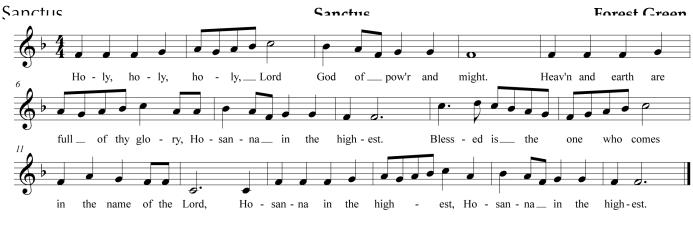
Words: John Milton (1608-1674), alt. Music: "St. Anne," melody att. William Croft (1678-1727), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

Please stand, as able, for,

The Great Thanksgiving				
Celebrant	The Lord be with you.			
People	And also with you.			
Celebrant People	Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.			
Celebrant People	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give him thanks and praise.			

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Please join in singing,



Music: "Forest Green," Traditional English folk melody; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Please kneel or stand, as able, as the Celebrant continues.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen**.

Celebrant And now, as Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, All 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 and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.



Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944); Copyright © 1982 by Hope Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission. Music: "Jerusalem," Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918) arr. Jane Wyatt (b. 1934)

The Invitation

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God, Holy gifts, for Holy people.

For our online community—an invitation to pray together the spiritual communion prayer from the National Cathedral. A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite my-self entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

The Communion of the People

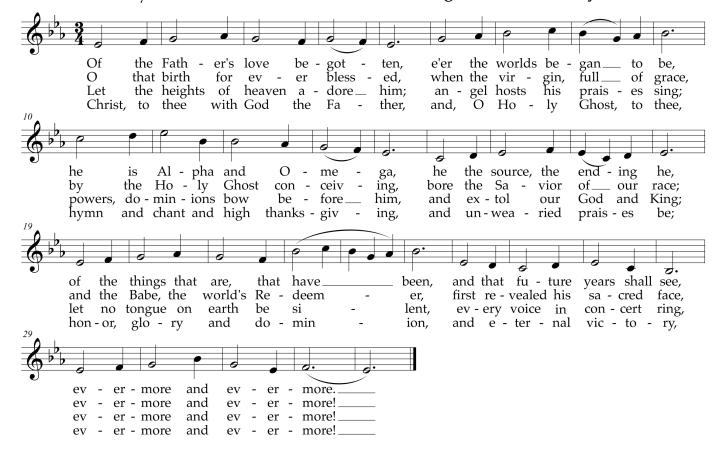
All are invited to receive Holy Communion. Please follow the directions of the ushers. If you do not wish to receive, we encourage you to come forward to receive a blessing. Simply fold your hands across your chest when you come forward. The clergy will carry Communion to anyone in the congregation who is unable to come forward. Please notify an usher if you wish Communion to be brought to you. Gluten-free Communion wafers are available. If you require one of these, simply ask.

If you have come with a particular prayer concern today, after receiving Communion you may come to the Nason Prayer Chapel to the right of the altar rail where someone will also be available to pray with you, or you may just choose to light a candle.

Communion Hymn

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Hymn #82, vv. 1-4



Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt. Music: "Divine mysterium," Sanctus trope, 11 cent.; adapt. "Piae Cantiones," 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956)

Please kneel or stand, as able for,

The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

All

All

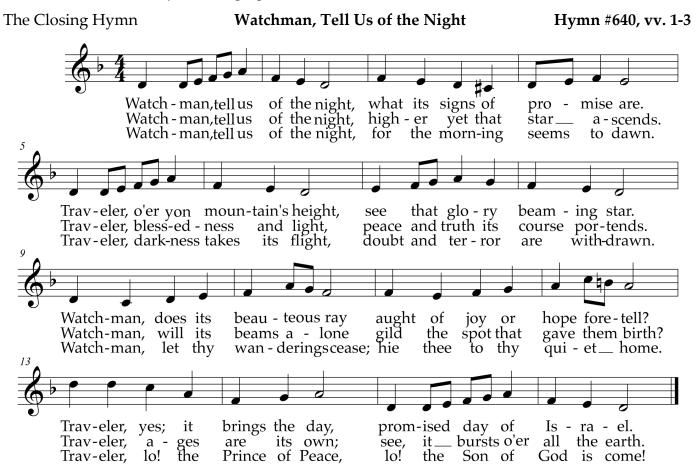
Celebrant Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage, Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the afflicted. Honor all persons.

Love and serve the lord, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. And, the blessing of God Almighty, The ₱ Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit be with you always. **Amen.**

The Sending Forth

DeaconLet us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!PeopleThanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Please stand, as able, and join in singing



Words: John Bowring (1792-1872). Music: "Aberystwyth," Joseph Parry (1841-1903).

Postlude:

Variations on "Stuttgart"

arr. David Knight

Welcome!!

We warmly welcome you if you are here with us for the first time today. We joyfully welcome *all* people into our community – without exception. Whoever you are, and whatever the status of your relationship with God, you will find fellow travelers here.

Please join us for coffee fellowship after the service. The Ushers will direct you.

Prayers this Week

We pray for all those who serve in the armed and foreign services, and for their families, especially Thomas, Drew Deley, Michael Heredia, Mark Kappelmann, Joseph Leahy, TJ Malzahn, Will Piepenbring, Scott Ruston, Michael Strong, Barry Witt, Jonathan Zimmerman and Steve.

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in any other kind of need or trouble: Ana, Andrea, Christa, Jean Dicus, Daniel Dreiling, Pauline Duley, Elvis, Ceri Falk, Colette Furbush, Chris Goldsmith, Sally Hill, Loren, Mick Mohuchy, Patt Parker, Bruce Schaefer,

Roxanne Wall, and for the people of the middle east, and victims of violence everywhere.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

What's Happening!

Harbor Interfaith Services Christmas Dinner Donations – Dec 17th, to Church Office

Help make the holidays bright for the over 350 families served by HIS by donating food or toys to their Christmas Drive. Bring holiday foods, gift cards, toys for kids 1 month-18 years old to the church office by Dec 17th.

Christmas Eve Services & Children's Pageant – Dec 24th

Join us at the 4pm Children's Pageant & Service, and 9pm traditional Christmas Eve service.

Christmas Eve Concert — Dec 24th, 8pm

Come listen to the St. Francis Choir perform inspiring Christmas music & sing along to Christmas carols! For more info contact Mark Bennett, mark.bennett@stfrancispalosverdes.org

Christmas Day — Dec 25th, 9am

Celebrate the birth of Jesus with us on this holy day!

Ongoing

Bible Study on Zoom—Contacts: Jack Hailwood, *john.w.hailwood@outlook.com* or Suellen Eslinger, *suellenesl@verizon.net*

Yoga

Mondays from 11:30am –1:00pm - All Levels Hatha Yoga for Strength and Mobility. Wednesdays 9:00-10:30am All Levels Gentle Yoga for Vital Mobility and Balance.

(free-will offering).

Contact: Jill Lynch—jillfenskelynch@gmail.com

AA-Thursdays & Sundays 7:30 pm, Al-Anon-Thursdays 7:00pm

Our Clergy

The Rev. Jason Shelby, Rector, *jason.shelby@stfrancispalosverdes.org* Direct Line: (310) 594-7984, Church Office: (310) 375-4617 **The Rev. Celeste Stump**, Deacon, Chaplain at The Canterbury, *cstump@thecanterbury.org* Direct Line: (310) 913-1069

Children and families Contact: Kristina Pelá, krab3@yahoo.com

Our Staff

Dr. Mark Bennett, (310) 594-7416, mark.bennett@stfrancispalosverdes.org, Director of Music
Ms. Claire Erbeznik, (310) 375 4617, claire.erbeznik@strancispalosverdes.org, Office
Administrator & Receptionist
Mr. David Knight, Organist
Mr. Joel Miranda, Sexton
Mrs. Elaine Mistele, (310) 594-8268, elaine.mistele@stfrancispalosverdes.org, Business Manager



Scan the code to join our electronic mailing list.

Find us on: facebook. St Francis Palos Verdes





https://www.youtube.com/c/ StFrancisEpiscopalChurchPalosVerdes

St Francis Episcopal Church, 2200 Via Rosa, Palos Verdes, CA 90274, 310 375-4617. www.stfrancispalosverdes.org