

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 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

"Advent Pastorale"

Marco Enrique Bossi

Please stand as able, and join in singing,

Processional Hymn

Savior of the Nations Come!

Hymn #54, vv. 1-4

Sa - vior of the na - tions, come!  
Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child  
Thus on earth the Word ap - pears,  
Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son,

2  
Vir - gin's Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both heaven and earth,  
of the Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and Ma - ry's son,  
grac - ing his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and hell de - scends,  
who o'er sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your king - dom be;

4  
that the Lord chose such a birth.  
ea - ger now his race to run!  
then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.  
grant that we its glo - ries see.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambroise of Milan (340-397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876)  
and James Warring McCrady (b. 1938), sts. 3-4, © 1982 James Warring McCrady.

Music: "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland," melody from "Erfurt Enchiridia," 1524; harm. Melchior Vulpus (1560?-1616).

## The Opening Acclamation

**Celebrant** Blessed be God, ✠ Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**People** **And 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,*

## The Gloria

### Gloria

S 280 (Powell)

7 Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace — to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al -  
13 might-y — God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.  
19 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
26 sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re - ceive our  
32 prayer. For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most  
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo - ry of God — the Fa - ther. A - men.

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. Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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

*The candles are lit*

Leader: "Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34)

**People: Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a lovestarved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. Amen.**

The First Lesson 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

1<sup>st</sup> Reader A reading from the second book of Samuel.

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

1<sup>st</sup> Reader The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

The Response Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26 *Misericordias Domini*

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

*Refrain* **Forever I Will Sing** (Ps. 89), Michael Guimont



Words: "Lectionary for Mass," © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL. Music: Michel Guimont, © 1994, G.I.A. Publication, Inc. International copyright reserved. All rights reserved.

1 Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; \*  
**from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.**

2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \*  
**you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*  
**I have sworn an oath to David my servant:** *Refrain*

4 'I will establish your line for ever, \*  
**and preserve your throne for all generations.'**

19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: \*  
**"I have set the crown upon a warrior  
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.**

20 I have found David my servant; \*  
**with my holy oil have I anointed him.** *Refrain*

21 My hand will hold him fast \*  
**and my arm will make him strong.**

22 No enemy shall deceive him, \*  
**nor any wicked man bring him down.**

23 I will crush his foes before him \*  
**and strike down those who hate him.** *Refrain*

24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*  
**and he shall be victorious through my Name.**

25 I shall make his dominion extend \*  
**from the Great Sea to the River.**

26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, \*  
**my God, and the rock of my salvation.'** *Refrain*

The Second Lesson Romans 16:25-27

2<sup>nd</sup> Reader A Reading from the letter to the Romans.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reader The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as able, and join in singing,*

The Sequence Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymn #56, vv. 1-3, 6-7

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, that  
 O come, thou wis - dom from on high, who or - derest all things might - i - ly; to  
 O come, O come, Thou Lord of Might, who to thy tribes on Si - nai's height in  
 O come, Thou Day - spring, from on high, and cheer us by thine draw - ing nigh; dis -  
 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the hearts of all man - kind; bid

mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 us the path of know - ledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re  
 an - cient times didst give the law, in cloud, and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 perse the gloom - y clouds of night and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
 thou our sad di - vi - sions cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.

joice! Re-joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. "Hymnal 1940," alt. Music: "Veni, veni, Emmanuel," plainsong, Mode 1, "Processionale," 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

*Please remain standing, as able, for*

The Holy Gospel Luke 1:26-38

Deacon The Holy Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Please be seated for,*

The Sermon            The Rev. Jason Shelby

*There 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 resources 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 Lord, in your mercy  
**People 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 kingdom.

*Silence*

Deacon Lord, in your mercy  
**People 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 Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**All 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 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      *"Lo, how a Rose e'er Blooming"*      14th C. Carol, harm. Michael Praetorius

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men old old have sung.  
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,  
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Saviour,  
When half spent was the night.*

*O flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispel in glorious splendour the darkness everywhere;  
True man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us,  
And share our every load.*

*St. Francis Choir*



Offertory Hymn    **The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns**    Hymn #73, vv. 1, 3, 5

The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um - phant  
 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and earth's dark night is  
 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty  
 4  
 breaks; when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to - joy a -  
 past; O haste the ris - ing of that morn, the day that e'er shall  
 brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of  
 8  
 wakes.  
 last.  
 kings.

Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie (1859-1925), alt. Music: "St. Stephen," William Jones (1726-1800), alt.

*Please stand, as able, for,*

## The Great Thanksgiving

**Celebrant**    The Lord be with you.

**People**        **And also with you.**

**Celebrant**    Lift up your hearts.

**People**        **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Celebrant**    Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People**        **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,*

## Sanctus

## Sanctus

## Forest Green

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, — Lord God of — pow'r and might. Heav'n and earth are  
 6  
 full — of thy glo - ry, Ho - san - na — in the high - est. Bless - ed is — the one who comes  
 11  
 in the name of the Lord, Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na — in the high - est.

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.**

Fraction Anthem

**The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came**

Hymn #265, vv. 1-4

The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came, his  
"For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be, \_\_\_ all  
Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head, "To  
Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born \_\_\_ in

3  
wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes \_\_\_ as flame; \_\_\_ "All  
gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee, \_\_\_ thy  
me be as it pleas - eth God," \_\_\_ she said, \_\_\_ "my  
Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, \_\_\_ and

5  
hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry, \_\_\_ most  
Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told, \_\_\_ most  
soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name." Most  
Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say - "Most

7  
high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - - ri - a! \_\_\_  
high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - - ri - a! \_\_\_  
high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - - ri - a! \_\_\_  
high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - - ri - a! \_\_\_

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: "Gabriel's Message," Basque carol,  
harm. Edward Pettman (1865-1943), © 1961 B. Feldman and Co. Ltd., trading as H. Freeman and Co.  
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## 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 myself 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

### How Bright Appears the Morning Star

### Hymn #497, vv. 1-3



How bright ap - pears the Morn - ing star, with  
Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he  
Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with  
mer - cy beam - ing from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es; O  
deigned to cast a pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture; the  
praise, ye sin - ners fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion. In -  
right - eous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and  
whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser - a -  
car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on, great  
Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic - es: Je - sus, Je - sus!  
phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture; Je - sus, grant us,  
Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion. A - men, A - men!  
Ho - ly, ho - ly yet most low - ly, draw thou near us;  
through thy mer - it, to in - her - it thy sal - va - tion;  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise be giv - en  
great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.  
hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.  
ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

Words: William Mercer (1811-1873), after Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608).  
Music: "Wie schön leuchtet," melody att. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608);  
arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*Please kneel or stand, as able for,*

## The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

**All 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

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.

**All Amen.**

## The Sending Forth

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**People Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Please stand, as able, and join in singing*

Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of  
 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of  
 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of  
 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of

5  
 God! For him let doors be o - pened, no hearts a - gainst him  
 God! By those who tru - ly lis - ten his voice is tru - ly  
 God! He on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of  
 God! He of - fers to the bur - dened the rest and grace they

9  
 barred! Not robbed in roy - al splen - dor, in power and pomp, comes  
 heard; pi - ty the proud and haugh - ty, who have not learned to his  
 God. All power is his, all glo - ry! All things are in his  
 need. Gen - tle is he and hum - ble! And light his yoke shall

13  
 he; but clad as are the poor - est, such his hu - mil - i - ty!  
 heed the Christ who is the Prom - ise, who has a - tone - ment made.  
 hand, all a - ges and all peo - ples, till time it - self shall end!  
 be, for he would have us bear - it so he can make us free!

Words: Frederico J. Pagura (b. 1923), alt., Copyright © 1974 by Hope Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.  
 Music: "Valet will ich dir geben," melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), alt.; harm. and desc. Ronald Arnatt (b. 1930), harm. ©1984, Ronald Arnatt.

Postlude:

*"Lift Up Your Heads!"*

*Paul Fey*

**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!

### **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](mailto:mark.bennett@stfrancispalosverdes.org)

### **Christmas Day – Dec 25th, 9am**

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

### **Art Camp – January 3-5th, 9am–11:30pm**

Camp for all kids age 5-11, contact Claire to reserve a spot: [claire.erbeznik@stfrancispalosverdes.org](mailto:claire.erbeznik@stfrancispalosverdes.org)

### **Quilters & Knitters – Thursdays 1-3pm, Boardroom**

Is your New Years resolution to spend more time on needlework? Think about joining our weekly quilting, knitting, embroidering, and crochet group and share ideas and knowledge!

## Ongoing

**Bible Study on Zoom**—Contacts: Jack Hailwood, [john.w.hailwood@outlook.com](mailto:john.w.hailwood@outlook.com) or Suellen Esslinger, [suellenesl@verizon.net](mailto: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—[jillfenskelynych@gmail.com](mailto:jillfenskelynych@gmail.com)

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

## Our Clergy

**The Rev. Jason Shelby, Rector**, [jason.shelby@stfrancispalosverdes.org](mailto: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](mailto:cstump@thecanterbury.org)

Direct Line: (310) 913-1069

## Children and families

Contact: Kristina Pelá, [krab3@yahoo.com](mailto:krab3@yahoo.com)

## Our Staff

**Dr. Mark Bennett**, (310) 594-7416, [mark.bennett@stfrancispalosverdes.org](mailto:mark.bennett@stfrancispalosverdes.org), Director of Music

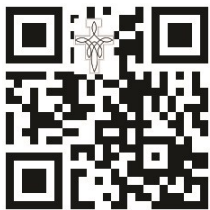
**Ms. Claire Erbeznik**, (310) 375 4617, [claire.erbeznik@strancispalosverdes.org](mailto:claire.erbeznik@strancispalosverdes.org), Office

Administrator & Receptionist

**Mr. David Knight**, Organist

**Mr. Joel Miranda**, Sexton

**Mrs. Elaine Mistele**, (310) 594-8268, [elaine.mistele@stfrancispalosverdes.org](mailto:elaine.mistele@stfrancispalosverdes.org), Business Manager



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