Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023, 9:00 pm

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

Please also note that our services are publicly livestreamed.

The Word of God

Prelude "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" J.S. Bach

Please stand as able, and join in singing,

Processional Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem

Bethlehem Hymn #78, v. 1-4

O little town of Bethlehem

How still we see thee lie

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep

The silent stars go by

Yet in thy dark streets shineth

The everlasting light

The hopes and fears of all the years

Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary

And gathered all above

While mortals sleep, the angels keep

Their watch of wondering love

O morning stars together

Proclaim thy holy birth

And praises sing to God the King

And peace to men on earth

O little town of Bethlehem

How still we see thee lie

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep

The silent stars go by

Yet in thy dark streets shineth

The everlasting light

The hopes and fears of all the years

Are met in thee tonight

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,

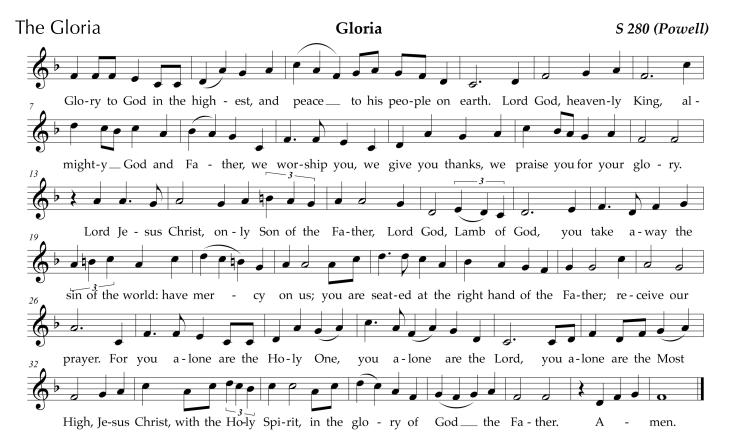
All to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:

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,





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. O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated.

The First Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7 1st Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darknesson them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

1st Reader The Word of the Lord. **People Thanks be to God.**

The Response Psalm 96 Cantate Domino

Reader Let us read from Psalm 96 responsively (the People reading the text in **bold**).

Refrain Joy to the World Hymn #100, v. 1 (lyrics only)



1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *

sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *

proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

3 Declare his glory among the nations *

and his wonders among all peoples.

4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *

he is more to be feared than all gods.

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *

but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *

Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *

ascribe to the Lord honor and power. Refrain

8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *

bring offerings and come into his courts.

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *

let the whole earth tremble before him.

10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! *

he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;

he will judge the peoples with equity."

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *

let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, *

when he comes to judge the earth.

13 He will judge the world with righteousness *

and the peoples with his truth.

Refrain

The Second Lesson Titus 2:11-14

2nd Reader A Reading from the letter to the Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

2nd Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able, and join in singing,

The Sequence Hymn God Rest You Merry Gentleman Hymn #105, v. 1-4 (lyrics only)

God rest ye merry, gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember, Christ, our Saviour
Was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray
O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

In Bethlehem, in Israel
This blessed Babe was born
And laid within a manger
Upon this blessed morn
The which His Mother Mary

Did nothing take in scorn
O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

From God our Heavenly Father
A blessed Angel came
And unto certain Shepherds
Brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by Name
O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

Please remain standing, as able, for

The Holy Gospel Luke 2:1-14

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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 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 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 ful-

filled; 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

"See Amid the Winter's Snow"

Dan Forest

Alleluia, Alleluia.

See amid the winter's snow, Born for us on earth below, See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years. Hail, thou ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn, Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem." Alleluia, Alleluia.

Lo, within a manger lies He who built the lofty skies, He, who throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim. Hail, thou ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn, Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem." Alleluia, Alleluia.

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine, Thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this. Hail, thou ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn, Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem." Alleluia, Alleluia.

St. Francis Choir

What child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap, is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with voices sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring him praise
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh Come peasant king to praise Him The King of kings, of glory brings Let loving hearts enthrone Him Raise, raise the song on high (Let singing fume) the earth and sky Joy, joy, for Christ is born The Babe, the Son of Mary!

What child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap, is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with voices sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds watch and angels sing
Haste, Haste to bring him grace
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

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.

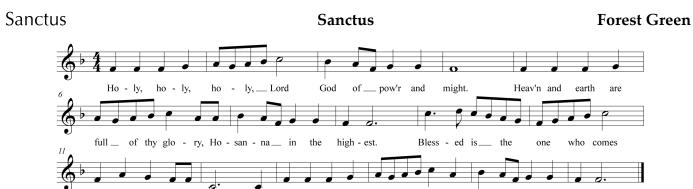
the name of the Lord,

Ho -

san - na

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)

the

high

in

est, Ho - san - na_

high - est.

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

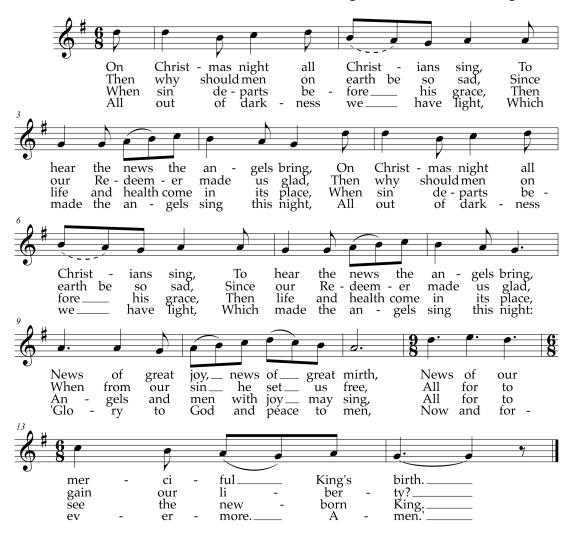
The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem Sussex Carol: On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

v. 1-4



Words: English carol, 17th cent. Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

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.

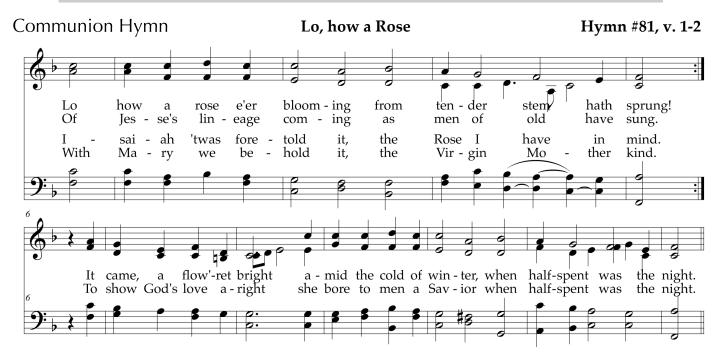
My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite my-self entirely 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.



Words: St. 1-2,15th-century German; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934), s. 3, Frederich Layritz (1808-1859), tr. Harriet Reynolds Krause Spieth (1845-1925); ver. "Hymnal 1940". Music: "Es ist ein Ros," harm. Michael Praetorious (1571-1621)

Away in a Manger

Hymn #101, v. 1-3 (lyrics only)

Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down His sweet head
The stars in the sky
Look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay
The cattle are lowing
The poor baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus

Look down from the sky
And stay by my side
'Til morning is nigh
Be near me, Lord Jesus
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
And love me I pray
Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
And take us to heaven
To live with Thee there
Take us to heaven
To live with Thee there

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 A 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

The Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

Hymn #100, v. 1, 2, 4 (lyrics only)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come

Let Earth receive her King

Let every heart prepare Him room

And Heaven and nature sing

And Heaven and nature sing

And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns

Let all their songs employ

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy Repeat the sounding joy

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace

And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness

And wonders of His love

And wonders of His love

And wonders, wonders of His love

Joy to the world, the Lord is come

Let Earth receive her King

Let every heart prepare Him room

And Heaven and nature sing

And Heaven and nature sing

And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the world, the Lord is come

Let Earth receive her King

Let every heart prepare Him room

And Heaven and nature sing

And Heaven and nature sing

And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Postlude:

"Joy to the World/Adeste Fidelis"

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!

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

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* 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

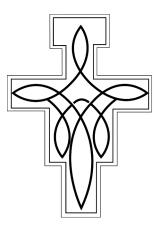
Ms. Claire Erbeznik, (310) 375 4617, claire.erbeznik@strancispalosverdes.org, Office

Administrator & Receptionist

Mr. David Knight, Organist

Mr. Joel Miranda, Sexton

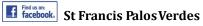
Mrs. Elaine Mistele, (310) 594-8268, elaine.mistele@stfrancispalosverdes.org, Business Manager

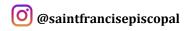


Merry Christmas!



Scan the code to join our electronic mailing list.







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