First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023, 10:00 am

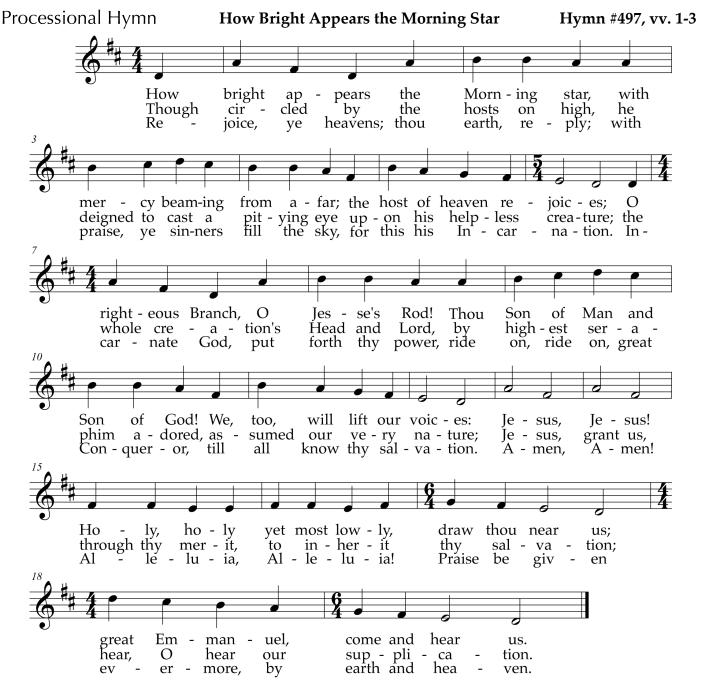
Please take a moment to silence your cellphone. Thank you.

Please also note that our services are publicly livestreamed.

The Word of God

Prelude "Largo" Edward Elgar

Please stand as able, and join in singing,



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)



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

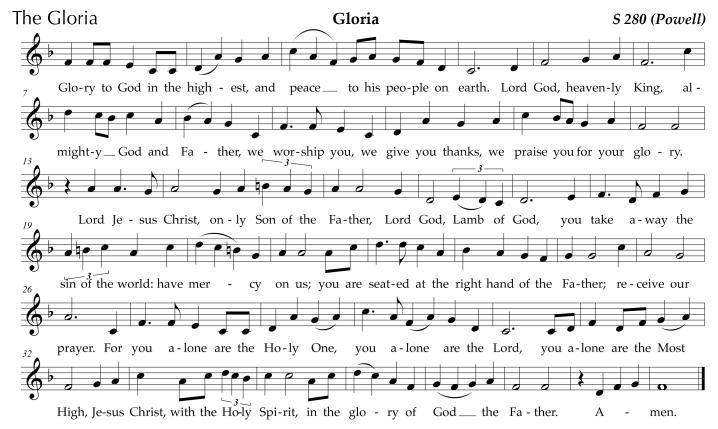
Celebrant Almighty God,

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. Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incar-

nate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of

the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

The First Lesson Isaiah 61:10-62:3 1st Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah.

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.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,

until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory;

and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

The Response Psalm 147: 13-21 Laudate Dominum

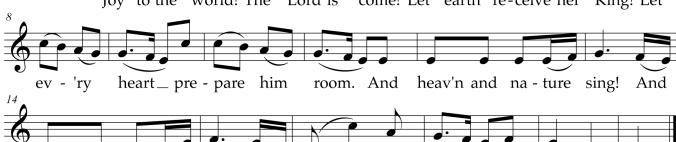
Reader Let us read from Psalm 147 responsively (the People reading the text in bold).

Refrain Joy to the World Hymn #100, v. 1



Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth re-ceive her King! Let

and



heav'n,

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1759), alt. Music: "Antioch," George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *

heav'n and na - ture

praise your God, O Zion;

14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *

he has blessed your children within you.

sing!

And

15 He has established peace on your borders; *

he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

16 He sends out his command to the earth, *

and his word runs very swiftly.

17 He gives snow like wool; *

he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *

who can stand against his cold?

19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *

is the serious forth this word and mens them,

he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

20 He declares his word to Jacob, *

his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

21 He has not done so to any other nation; *

to them he has not revealed his judgments.

Hallelujah!

Refrain

heav - en and

sing.

na - ture

Refrain

The Second Lesson Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 2nd Reader A Reading from the book of Galatians.

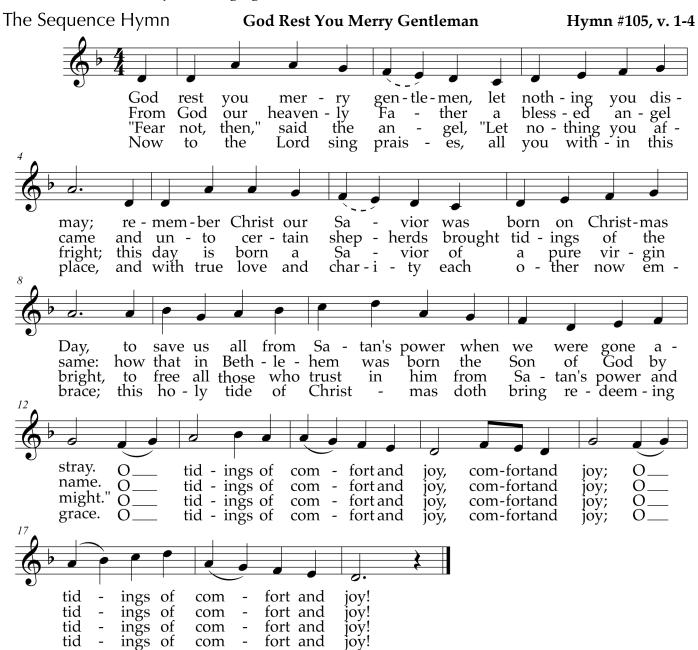
Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

2nd Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able, and join in singing,



Please remain standing, as able, for

The Holy Gospel Luke 1:1-18

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

People Glory 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.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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.

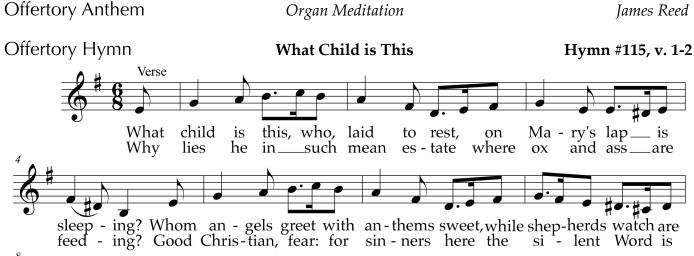
Please be seated.

Welcome, Announcements

Anyone who has a birthday or anniversary in the next week is invited to come forward for a blessing:

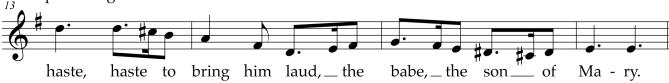
All Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their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

The Holy Communion





keep - ing? This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing; plead-ing.



Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: "Greensleeves," English melody; harm. "Christmas Carols New and Old," 1871.

Please stand, as able, for,

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you. **People** And also with you.

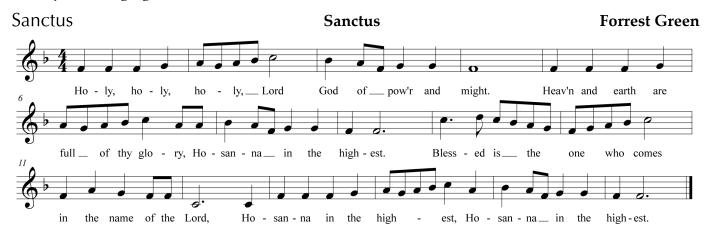
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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,



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: Anonymous, Philadelphia, 1885, 1892. Music: Tradtional carol, 1887, James R. Murray (1841-1905).

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: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893). "St. Louis," Louis H. Redner (1831-1908).

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



Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: George Frederick Handel (1685-1759); aadapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

Postlude: "Invocation" A. Guilmont

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: 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!

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!

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

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. James Reed, Substitute Organist

Mr. Joel Miranda, Sexton

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



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