

# Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 7, 2025 ❖ 10:00 am

*Celebrant: The Rev. Jason Shelby*

*Preacher: Shelley Reece*

*Deacon: The Rev. Celeste Stump*



*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 and fellowship after the service.*

*St. Francis Episcopal Church welcomes all people to receive Holy Communion. If you have not been baptized but would like to be, please talk to Father Jason after the service.*

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Walter Christmas in loving memory of his parents, Captain Walter and Eleanora Christmas, and his brother, Lawrence Christmas.*

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

## Coming Events

### Sunday, December 7

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I, Chapel)
- 9:10 am "Who is Jesus" Spiritual Formation Class (Library)
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
- 11:15 am Advent Breakfast
- 11:30 am Christmas Eve Concert Rehearsal
- 11:30 am ECW Meeting

### Monday, December 8

- 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Concert Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Sunday Choir Rehearsal

### Tuesday, December 9

- 4:30 pm Teen Tuesday (Parish Hall)

### Wednesday, December 10

- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II, Chapel)
- 11:00 am Good Grief Group
- 6:00 pm Men's Corner (Corner Bakery)
- 7:00 pm Lectionary Study (Library)

### Thursday, December 11

- 1:00 pm Quilting and Knitting Group

### Friday, December 12

- 6:00 pm St. Anne's Christmas Auction

### Saturday, December 13

- 6:00 pm Las Posada

### Sunday, December 14

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I, Chapel)
- 9:00 am Moonstone and Mist Book Fair
- 9:10 am "Who is Jesus" Spiritual Formation Class (Library)
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
- 11:30 am Faithful Families Potluck
- 11:30 am Christmas Eve Concert Rehearsal

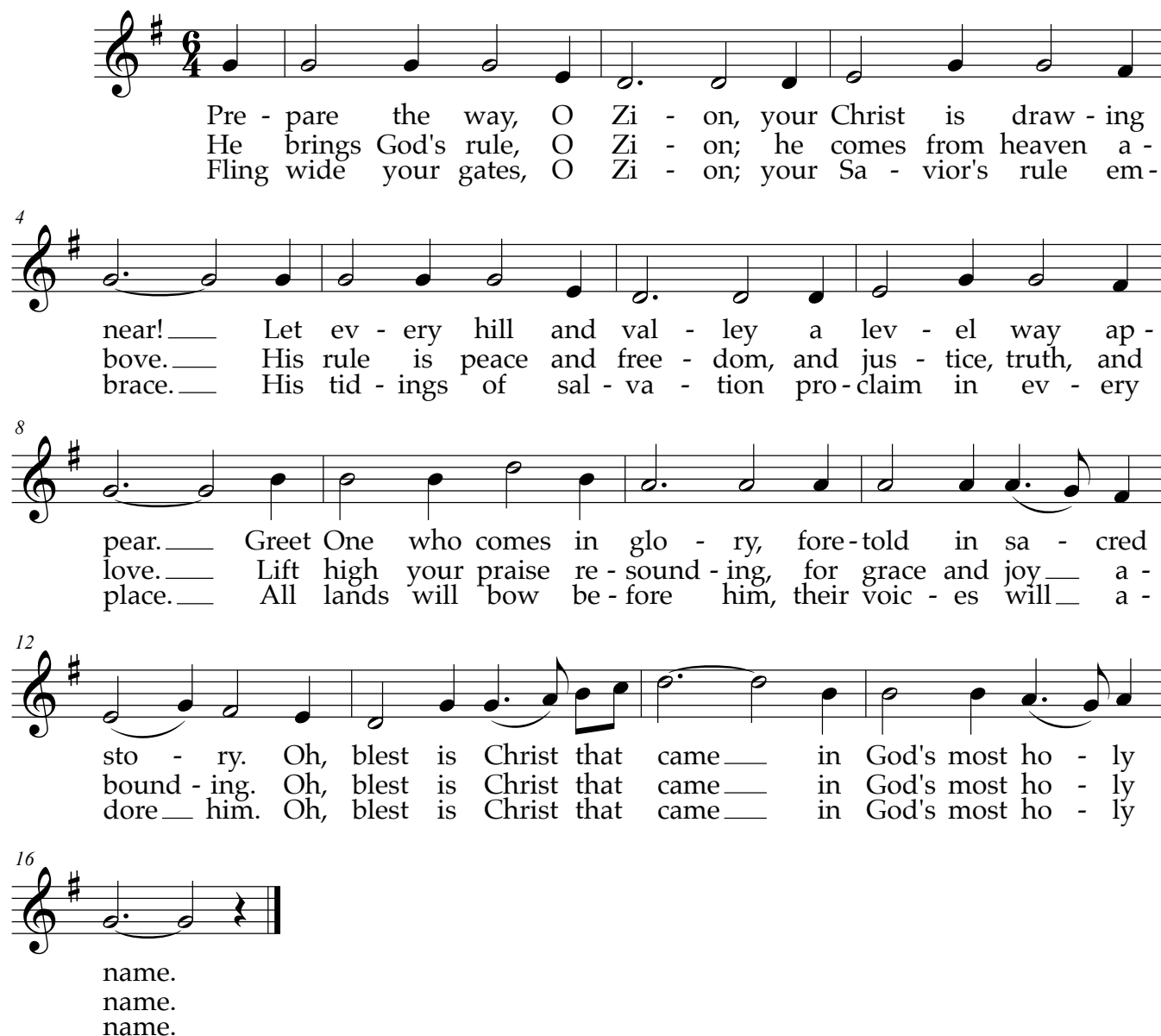
# The Word of God

Please stand as able and join in singing.

## The Processional Hymn

### Prepare the Way, O Zion

Hymnal #65



Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing  
He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a -  
Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em -

near! Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap -  
bove. His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and  
brace. His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery

pear. Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred  
love. Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a -  
place. All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a -

sto - ry. Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly  
bound - ing. Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly  
dore him. Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly

name.  
name.  
name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. 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

*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,  
*People* 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.

## The Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Hymnal #96

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The melody is a simple, hymn-like tune. The lyrics are: "Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o." The score is divided into two systems, each with a treble and bass staff for the choir and a grand staff for the piano. The piano accompaniment consists of a simple harmonic accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

Words: French carol, tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.; By permission of Fleming H. Revell Company.  
Music: "Gloria," French carol, arr. Edward Shippen Branes (1887-1958).

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Please be seated.*

## The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*A family steps forward.*

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

*The candles are lit.*

*Leader* "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace." (Colossians 3:15)

*People* **Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts, and peace for our souls.  
Give us grace to seek peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. Amen.**

## The First Lesson: Genesis 17:15-22

*Reader* A Reading from the book of Genesis.

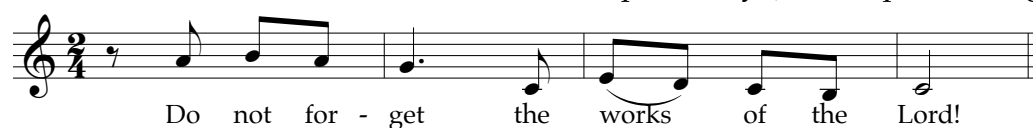
<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." <sup>17</sup>Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" <sup>18</sup>And Abraham said to God, "O that Ishmael might live in your sight!" <sup>19</sup>God said, "No, but your wife Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. <sup>20</sup>As for Ishmael, I have heard you; I will bless him and make him fruitful and exceedingly numerous; he shall be the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. <sup>21</sup>But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this season next year." <sup>22</sup>And when he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## The Response: Psalm 78:1-7

*Reader* Let us read from Psalm 78 responsively (the People reading the text in bold).



Words: English translation from "Lectionary for Mass," Copyright © 1969, 1981, 1997  
International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved;  
Music: Michel Guimont, from "Lectionary Psalms: The Revised Grail Psalms,"  
Copyright © 1994, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved.

<sup>1</sup>Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;

**incline your ears to the words of my mouth.**

<sup>2</sup>I will open my mouth in a parable;

**I will utter dark sayings from of old,**

<sup>3</sup>things that we have heard and known,  
**that our ancestors have told us.**

<sup>4</sup>We will not hide them from their children;

we will tell to the coming generation

**the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,**

**and the wonders that he has done. ....Refrain**

<sup>5</sup>He established a decree in Jacob,

and appointed a law in Israel,

**which he commanded our ancestors**

**to teach to their children;**

<sup>6</sup>that the next generation might know them,

the children yet unborn,

**and rise up and tell them to their children,**

<sup>7</sup>so that they should set their hope in God,

**and not forget the works of God,**

**but keep his commandments;.....Refrain**

## The Second Lesson: Romans 8:18-25

*Reader* A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord

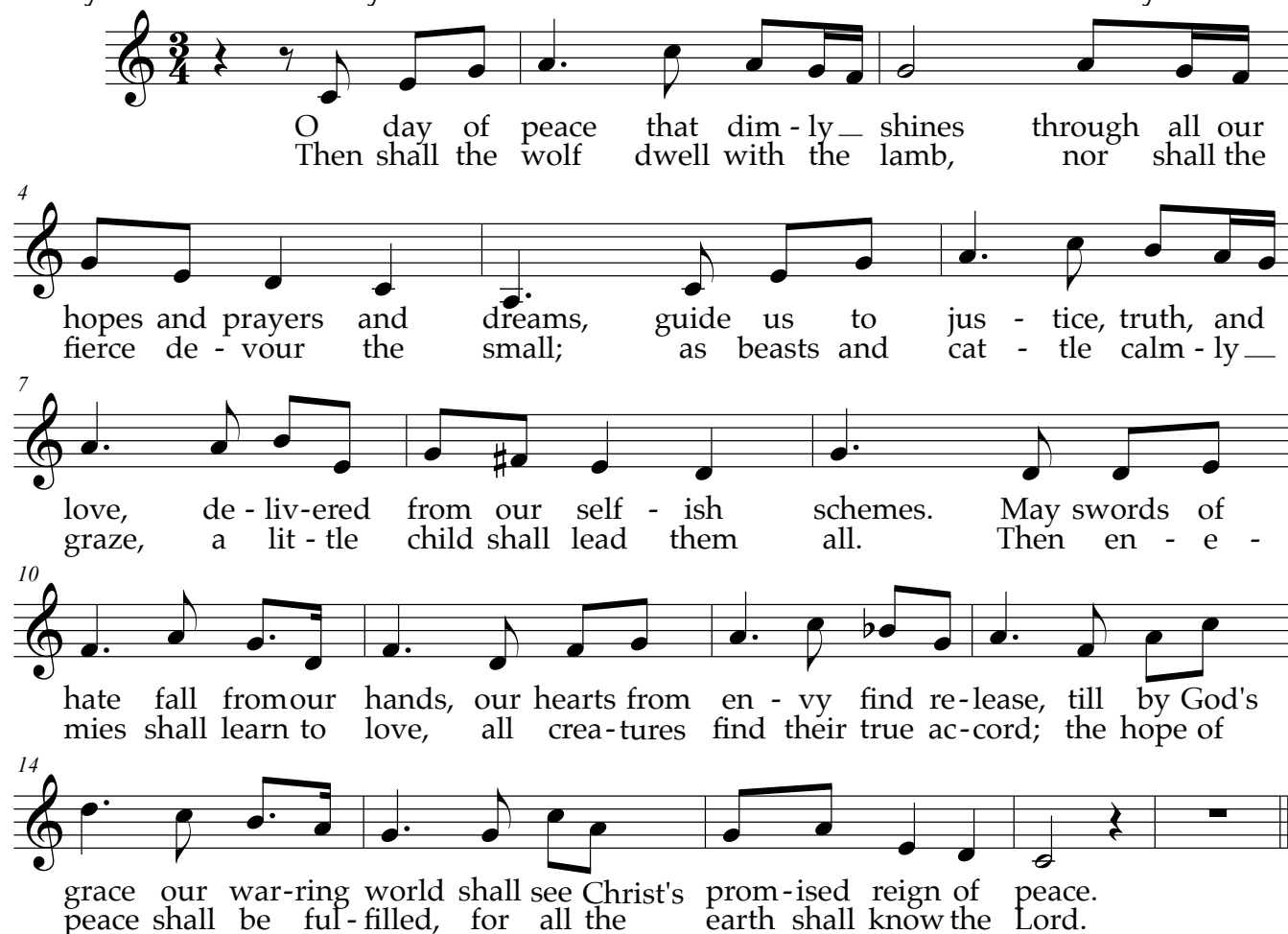
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as able and join in singing.*

## The Sequence Hymn

### O Day of Peace that Dimly Shines

Hymnal #597



O day of peace that dim - ly — shines through all our  
Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the  
hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice, truth, and  
fierce de - vour the small; as beasts and cat - tle calm - ly —  
love, de - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of  
graze, a lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e -  
hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re - lease, till by God's  
mies shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac - cord; the hope of  
grace our war - ring world shall see Christ's prom - ised reign of peace.  
peace shall be ful - filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

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).

*Please remain standing as able.*

## The Gospel: Luke 1:39–45

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

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

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

**Deacon**       The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

## The Sermon

Shelley Reece

*There will be a moment of silence for reflection following the sermon.*

*Please stand as able and join in saying the Nicene Creed.*

## 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 man. 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.*

## The Prayers of the People (the People read the responses in **bold**)

*Deacon*        Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

*People*        **That we all may be one.**

*Deacon*        Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

*People*        **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

*Deacon*        We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

*People*        **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

*Deacon*        We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

*People*        **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

*Deacon*        Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

*People*        **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

*Deacon*        For all those who serve in the armed and foreign services, and for their families, especially Alyssa Capellino Baxter, Barry Witt, Drew Deley, Jonathan Zimmerman, Joseph Leahy, Mark Kappelmann, Michael Strong, Scott Ruston, Steve, Thomas Dawson, TJ Malzahn, and Will Piepenbring, let us pray to the Lord.

*People*        **Lord, have mercy.**

*Deacon* For those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in any other kind of need or trouble: Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in any other kind of need or trouble: Andrea, Anne Sharp, Barbara Shelby, Billy Whelan, Bob Cook, Brad, Bruce Schaefer, Carlos, Celeste Stump, Ceri Falk, Chris, Colette Furbush, Connie, Dana Genzel-Diaz, Daniel Drayling, Elizabeth Beadle, Erica, Gail Winters, Joseph and Danielle Diestel, Judy Morgan, Kathy Falk, Kerry Myers, Kristen, Krystal, Loren, Miguel Diaz, Natalie Massey, Patt Parker, Phyllis Massey, Richard Cantine, Roxanne Wall, Roz Hadley, Sally Hill, Susie Zimmerman, Tommy, the people of the Middle East, the victims of violence everywhere, and for those who commit violence, that they may cease their evil ways and know the Love of Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Deacon* We confess our deep need for Christ as we face the tragedy of gun violence in our nation and in the world. God of mercy and grace, bring hope in our grief and light in our darkness. We mourn for all who have lost their lives and for those whose bodies and spirits bear lasting wounds. Hold the grieving in your love, heal the injured, and walk with all whose lives have been forever changed. Deliver us from fear, anger, and despair. Guide our leaders with wisdom as they seek just and responsible solutions, and turn our hearts toward peace. By your Holy Spirit, strengthen us to trust in you and to become peacemakers in a time of sorrow. Let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Deacon* Give to the departed eternal rest;

*People* **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*Deacon* We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

*People* **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

*Celebrant* O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Please kneel or sit 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.*

## The Welcome and Announcements

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

*All*              **Watch over your child(ren), 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

## The Offertory Sentence

*Celebrant*      Walk in love as Christ loves us, bring offerings of praise and thanksgiving to his table.

## The Communion Anthem

### Do Not Pass Me By

*Reginal Wright*

*Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble, humble cry;  
While on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.  
I'm calling Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry; do not pass me by.  
Thrusting only in thy merit, would I seek, I seek thy face;  
Heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by thy grace.  
I'm calling Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry; do not pass me by.  
Thou the spring of all my comfort, more than life, life to me,  
Whom have I on earth beside Thee, whom in heaven but thee?  
While on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.*

*St. Francis Choir*

The Offertory Hymn  
Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Hymnal #67

1  
Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple,  
Make ye straight what long was crook - ed,

2  
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
make the rough - er pla - ces plain;

3  
com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

4  
mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.  
as be - fits his ho - ly reign.

5  
Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

7  
tell her that her sins I cov - er,  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken

8  
and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.  
Music: "Psalm 42," melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. "Hymnal 1982."

*Please stand as able.*

## The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer B)

*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 our 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:

### The Sanctus

### Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

### Forest Green (Tune: #78)

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of power and might. Heav'n and earth are full of thy glo-ry, Ho-

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: "Forest Green," English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958).

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

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*All*            **We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Francis and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.*

### The Lord's Prayer

*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

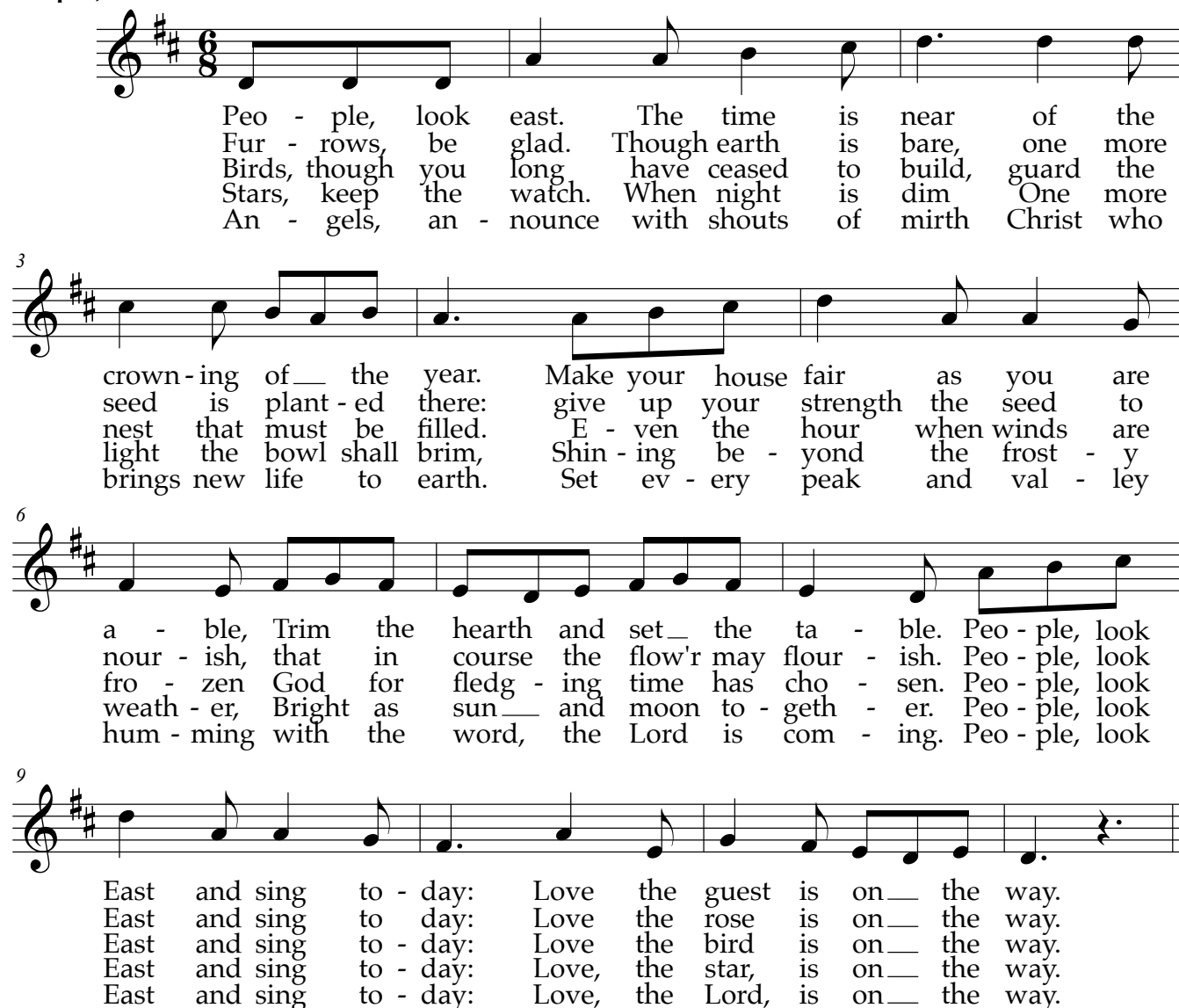
*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

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

# The Fraction Anthem

## People, Look East

WLP #724



Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the  
Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more  
Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the  
Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, One more  
An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

3  
crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are  
seed is plant - ed there: give up your strength the seed to  
nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when winds are  
light the bowl shall brim, Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y  
brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

6  
a - ble, Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen. Peo - ple, look  
weath - er, Bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

9  
East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.  
East and sing to day: Love the rose is on the way.  
East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.  
East and sing to - day: Love, the star, is on the way.  
East and sing to - day: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965) © 1957 Eleanor Farjeon; Reprinted by permission of Harold Ober Associates, Inc.

Music: "Besançon Carol," harm. John L. Hooker (b. 1944); harm. © 1997 John L. Hooker.

## 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)

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 you may light a candle and, if you wish, someone will be available to pray with you.

## 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.

## The Communion Song

### Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly

Hymnal #277



Sing of Ma - ry, pure and low - ly, vir - gin  
Sing of Je - sus, son of Ma - ry, in the  
Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther; glo - ry

5  
mo - ther un - de - filed; sing of God's own Son most ho - ly, who be -  
home at Naz - a - reth, toil and la - bor can - not wea - ry love en -  
be to God the Son; glo - ry be to God the Spi - rit; glo - ry

9  
came her lit - tle child. Fair - est child of fair - est  
dur - ing un - to death. Con - stant was the love he  
to the Three in One. From the heart of bless - ed

12  
mo - ther, God the Lord who came to earth, Word made  
gave her, though he went forth from her side, forth to  
Ma - ry, from all saints the song a - scends, and the

15  
flesh, our ve - ry bro - ther, takes our na - ture by his birth.  
preach, and heal, and suf - fer, till on Cal - va - ry he died.  
Church the strain re - ech - oes un - to earth's re - mot - est ends.

Words: Roland Ford Palmer (1891-1985); Used by permission of the Reverend Roland F. Palmer.  
Music: "Raquel," Skinner Chavez-Melo (1944-1992); © 1985, Skinner Chavez-Melo.

Please kneel or stand as able.

## 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 Prayer of St. Francis

*Celebrant* Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

*People* **Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

## The Blessing

*Celebrant* 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.

*All* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*Please stand as able and join in singing.*

The Recessional Hymn  
Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Hymnal #616

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great  
He comes with suc - cor speed - y to  
He shall come down like show - ers up -  
Kings shall bow down be - fore him, and

3  
Da - vid's great - er Son! Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his  
those who suf - fer wrong, to help the poor and need - y, and  
on the fruit - ful earth, and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring  
gold and in - cense bring; all na - tions shall a - dore him, his

7  
reign on earth be - gun! He comes to break op - pres - sion, to  
bid the weak be strong; to give them songs for sigh - ing, their  
in his path to birth: be - fore him on the moun - tains shall  
praise all peo - ple sing; to him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and

11  
set the cap - tive free; to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and  
dark - ness turn to light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were  
peace, the her - ald, go; and right - eous - ness in foun - tains from  
dai - ly vows a - scend; his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a

15  
rule in eq - ui - ty.  
pre - cious in his sight.  
hill to val - ley flow.  
king - dom with - out end.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); para. of Psalm 72. Music: "Ellacombe," 1784, melody from  
"Gesangbuch. . . der Herzogl. Württembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle," 1784, alt.;  
adapt. "Katholisches Gesangbuch," 1863; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889);  
Descant by permission of Oxford University Press.

The Postlude

Lift Up Your Heads

Praetorius/Fey



# Advent & Christmas at St. Francis

## Second Sunday of Advent

**Sunday, Dec. 7**

8:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite I  
10:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite II  
11:15 am – Advent Breakfast and Family  
Nativity Set Craft

**Wednesday, Dec. 10**

10:00 am – Midweek Holy Eucharist Rite II

**Friday, Dec. 12**

6:00 pm – St. Anne's Christmas Auction

**Saturday, Dec. 13**

6:00 pm – Las Posadas (Nativity Reenactment)

## Third Sunday of Advent

**Sunday, Dec. 14**

8:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite I  
10:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite II

**Wednesday, Dec. 17**

10:00 am – Midweek Holy Eucharist Rite II

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Sunday, Dec. 21**

8:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite I  
10:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite II  
11:15 am – Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour

**Tuesday, Dec. 23**

7:00 pm – Taizé

## Christmas Eve

**Wednesday, Dec. 24**

Church office closed  
4:00 pm – Christmas Eve Family Service  
8:00 pm – Christmas Choir Concert  
9:00 pm – Christmas Holy Eucharist Rite II

## Christmas Day

**Thursday, Dec. 25**

Church office closed  
9:00 am – Christmas Morning Holy  
Eucharist Rite II (Chapel)

## First Sunday after Christmas

**Sunday, Dec. 28**

8:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite I  
10:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite II

**Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2025**

**through Friday, Jan. 2, 2026**

Church office closed

For more events and small discussion groups  
at St. Francis, visit our church calendar:  
<https://bit.ly/stfranciscalendar>



St. Francis Episcopal Church  
2200 Via Rosa  
Palos Verdes Estates 90274  
[www.stfrancispalosverdes.org](http://www.stfrancispalosverdes.org)



## Advent Sunday Breakfast & Nativity Set Craft Sunday, December 7

Come and celebrate the Advent season together with one of our favorite St. Francis traditions! On **Sunday, December 7, following the 10 am service**, join us in the Parish Hall for our annual Advent Sunday Breakfast — a time to gather as a parish family, share a meal, and embrace the joy of the season.

The Friars will be serving up a delicious pancake breakfast, complete with hot cocoa, warm cider, and plenty of cheer. It's the perfect way to slow down, reconnect, and prepare our hearts for the Advent journey ahead.

Something new this year! We'll also be hosting a Nativity Set craft, where everyone is invited to create a one-of-a-kind Nativity scene. All the materials will be provided, so you can design and assemble your set, as a family or on your own, as a meaningful keepsake to bring the spirit of Advent into your home.

Come enjoy good food, great company, and the warmth of community as we begin this holy season together.

Contact: Mary Deley (mary\_deley@yahoo.com)

## Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Meeting Sunday, December 7

The St. Francis ECW will meet on **Saturday, December 7, at 11:30 am in the St. Francis Library** to discuss the distribution of funds raised this year.

We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported the Antiques Show—whether through generous gifts in response to the Angel Letter or through the many hours of hard work that made the show such a success! This annual event is our primary fundraiser, enabling us to give generously to both the parish and local community organizations.

A detailed report of ECW giving will be shared at the Annual Meeting.

More information about next year's Antiques Show will be coming soon!

Contact: Anna Eakins (annatkozaki@gmail.com)

## Christmas Toy Drive with Malaga Bank

St. Francis Episcopal Church is partnering with Malaga Bank this holiday season to help bring joy to local families in need. We're collecting new, unwrapped toys, and we'd love your help! You can drop off donations at the St. Francis church office or at any Malaga Bank location **through December 12.**

## St. Anne's Christmas Auction Friday, December 12

Mark your calendars for one of our favorite St. Francis traditions! On **Friday, December 12 from 6–9 pm, the Parish Hall** transforms into a festive marketplace filled with Christmas cheer, homemade treats, and gifts waiting to find new homes.

Hosted by the St. Anne's Guild, this live auction raises funds for local charities—and it's always a joyful evening of fellowship, fun, and holiday spirit. ✨

Enjoy refreshments, browse beautiful Christmas items, and take home something special for the season. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome!

Come celebrate generosity, community, and the joy of giving.

## Las Posadas (Nativity Reenactment) Saturday, December 13 at 6:00 pm

Come experience the beauty and tradition of **Las Posadas on Saturday, December 13 at 6:00 pm** at St. Francis! This beloved celebration reenacts Mary and Joseph's search for shelter before the birth of Jesus. We'll begin outdoors with singing and the traditional procession, then move inside to enjoy delicious Mexican food and fellowship.

Las Posadas has been celebrated for over 430 years, and we're delighted to share this meaningful tradition with our whole community. All are warmly invited to participate.

For more information, please contact Ed Hinz at 310-418-8138.

## Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour Sunday, December 21

Join us after the 10:00 am service for a festive Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall! Everyone is invited to bring a plate of cookies to share — homemade, store-bought, fancy, simple... all are welcome.

Come enjoy sweet treats, warm fellowship, and a joyful moment together as we celebrate the final Sunday of Advent. Bring cookies, bring friends, bring Christmas cheer — we can't wait to see you there!

## Prayers this Week

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

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in any other kind of need or trouble: Andrea, Anne Sharp, Barbara Shelby, Billy Whelan, Bob Cook, Brad, Bruce Schaefer, Carlos, Celeste Stump, Ceri Falk, Chris, Colette Furbush, Connie, Dana Genzel-Diaz, Daniel Drayling, Elizabeth Beadle, Erica, Gail Winters, Joseph and Danielle Diestel, Judy Morgan, Kathy Falk, Kerry Myers, Kristen, Krystal, Loren, Miguel Diaz, Natalie Massey, Patt Parker, Phyllis Massey, Richard Cantine, Roxanne Wall, Roz Hadley, Sally Hill, Susie Zimmerman, Tommy, the people of the Middle East, and for victims of violence everywhere.

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

## Our Staff

### **Gina McQueen**

**Office Administrator & Receptionist**

gina.mcqueen@stfrancispalosverdes.org / (310) 375 4617

### **Elaine Mistele**

**Business Manager**

elaine.mistele@stfrancispalosverdes.org / (310) 594-8268

### **Dr. Mark Bennett**

**Director of Music**

mark.bennett@stfrancispalosverdes.org / (310) 594-7416

### **David Knight**

**Organist**

### **Kristina Pelá**

**Prayer and Pastoral Care Leader, Volunteer**

krab3@yahoo.com

### **Shelley Reece**

**Missioner for Programming and Youth**

shelley.reece@stfrancispalosverdes.org

### **Cara Nilsen**

**Discerner**

cara.nilsen@stfrancispalosverdes.org

### **Joel Miranda**

**Sexton**

mirandajoel@outlook.com

### **Wayne Hastings**

**Communications**

wayne@stfrancispalosverdes.org / (901) 219-6564

## 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



2200 Via Rosa  
Palos Verdes, CA 90274

(310) 375-4617

www.stfrancispalosverdes.org



YouTube