

# Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 14, 2025 ♦ 10:00 am

*Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Jason Shelby*

*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 Dick & Liz Cantine in celebration of 59 years of marriage.*

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

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## Coming Events

### 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

### Monday, December 15

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

### Tuesday, December 16

- 4:30 pm Teen Tuesday (Parish Hall)
- 6:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting
- 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting and Potluck

### Wednesday, December 17

- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II, Chapel)
- 11:00 am Good Grief Group
- 7:00 pm Lectionary Study (Library)

### Thursday, December 18

- 1:00 pm Quilting and Knitting Group

### Sunday, December 21

- 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 Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour
- 11:30 am Christmas Eve Concert Rehearsal

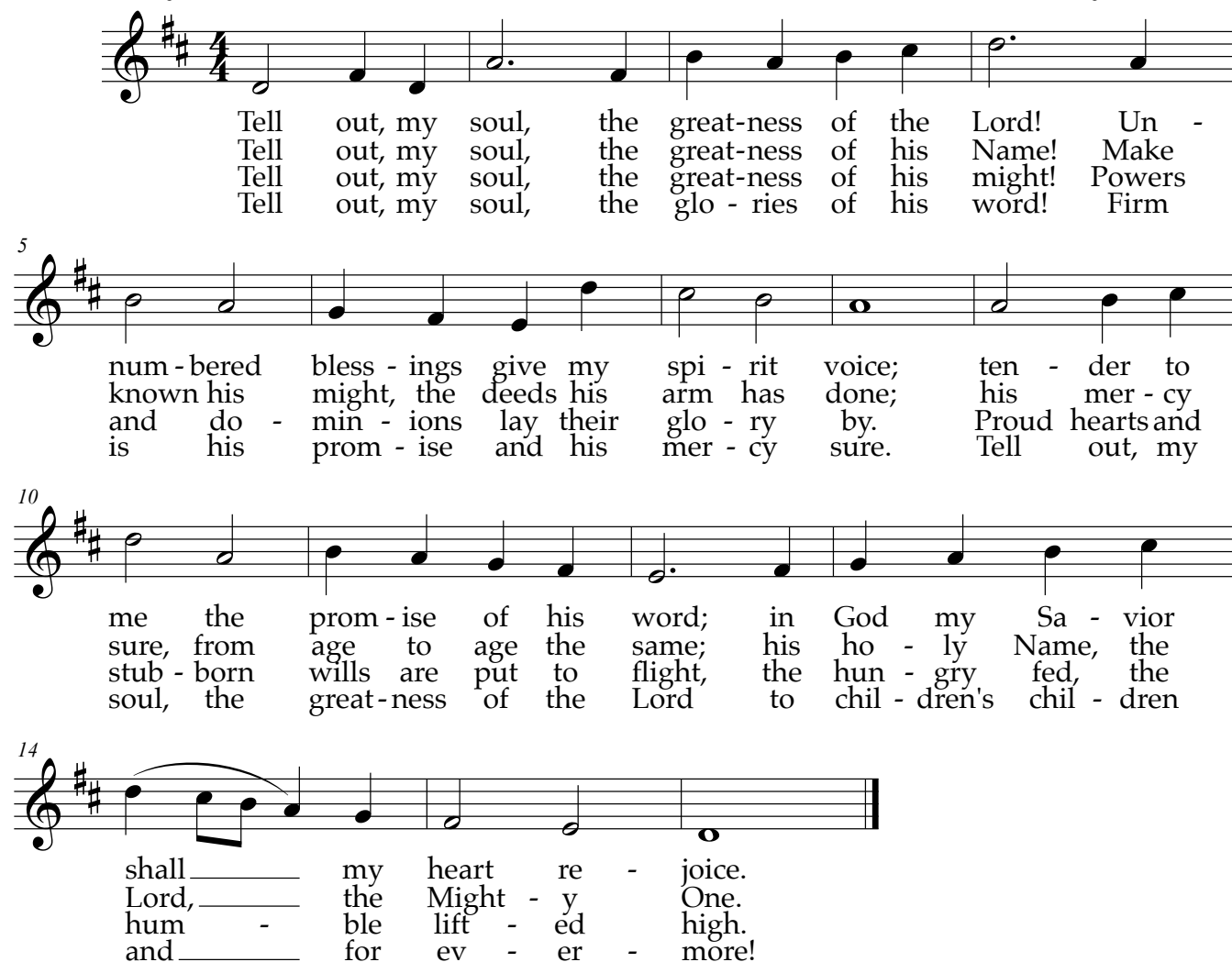
# The Word of God

Please stand as able and join in singing.

## The Processional Hymn

**Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord!**

**Hymnal #437**



Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord! Un -  
 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name! Make  
 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might! Powers  
 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word! Firm

5  
 num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice; ten - der to  
 known his might, the deeds his arm has done; his mer - cy  
 and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by. Proud hearts and  
 is his prom - ise and his mer - cy sure. Tell out, my

10  
 me the prom - ise of his word; in God my Sa - vior  
 sure, from age to age the same; his ho - ly Name, the  
 stub - born wills are put to flight, the hun - gry fed, the  
 soul, the great-ness of the Lord to chil - dren's chil - dren

14  
 shall my heart re - joice.  
 Lord, the Might - y One.  
 hum - ble lift - ed high.  
 and for ev - er - more!

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

## 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 choir or organ in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The melody is in B-flat major. The lyrics are: Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o. The score is divided into two systems, each starting with a measure number '7'. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and accompaniment.

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.

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

*Please be seated.*

## The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*A family steps forward.*

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

*The candles are lit.*

*Leader* "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."  
(Isaiah 55:12)

*People* **Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.**

## The First Lesson: Judges 13:2-7

*Reader* A Reading from the book of Judges.

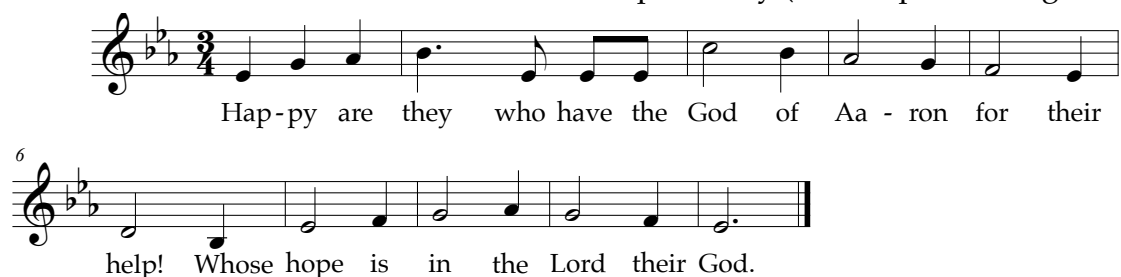
<sup>2</sup>There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. His wife was barren, having borne no children. <sup>3</sup>And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Although you are barren, having borne no children, you shall conceive and bear a son. <sup>4</sup>Now be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, or to eat anything unclean, <sup>5</sup>for you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor is to come on his head, for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth. It is he who shall begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines." <sup>6</sup>Then the woman came and told her husband, "A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like that of an angel of God, most awe-inspiring; I did not ask him where he came from, and he did not tell me his name; <sup>7</sup>but he said to me, 'You shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth to the day of his death.'"

*Reader* The Word of the Lord

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

## The Response: Psalm 115:9-15

*Reader* Let us read from Psalm 115 responsively (the People reading the text in bold).



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<sup>9</sup>O Israel, trust in the LORD!

**He is their help and their shield.**

<sup>10</sup>O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD!

**He is their help and their shield.**

<sup>11</sup>You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD!

**He is their help and their shield.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD has been mindful of us; he will bless us;

**he will bless the house of Israel;**

**he will bless the house of Aaron;.....Refrain**

<sup>13</sup>he will bless those who fear the LORD,

**both small and great.**

<sup>14</sup>May the LORD give you increase,

**both you and your children.**

<sup>15</sup>May you be blessed by the LORD,

**who made heaven and earth. ....Refrain**

## The Second Lesson: 1 John 3:1-3

*Reader* A Reading from the First letter of John.

<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord

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

*Please stand as able and join in singing.*

## The Sequence Hymn

### O God, We Praise Thee, and Confess

Hymnal #364



O God, we praise thee, and con - fess that thou the  
 To thee all an - gels cry a - loud; to thee the  
 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, whom heaven - ly  
 Thou art the King of glo - ry, Christ, the ev - er -

6  
 on - ly Lord and ev - er - last - ing Fa - ther art, by all the  
 powers on high, both cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim, con - tin - ual -  
 hosts o - bey, the world is with the glo - ry filled of thy ma -  
 last - ing Son; hum - bly thou cam'st to set us free, nor Vir - gin

13  
 earth a - dored.  
 ly do cry:  
 jes - tic sway!  
 womb didst shun.

Words: Para. of "Te Deum;" sts. 1-5, "A Supplement to the New Version of the Psalms of David," 1698, alt.;  
 sts. 6-8, ver. "Hymnal 1982." Music: "Manchester," melody and bass  
 Thomas Ravenscroft (1592?-1635?); harm. "Hymanl 1982."

*Please remain standing as able.*

## The Gospel: Luke 1:46-56

**Deacon**      **✙ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.**  
**People**      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,  
 "My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
 Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
 and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him  
 from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
 and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
 and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

<sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

*Deacon*           The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

## 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.*

## 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: 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* 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

### **I Wonder as I Wander**

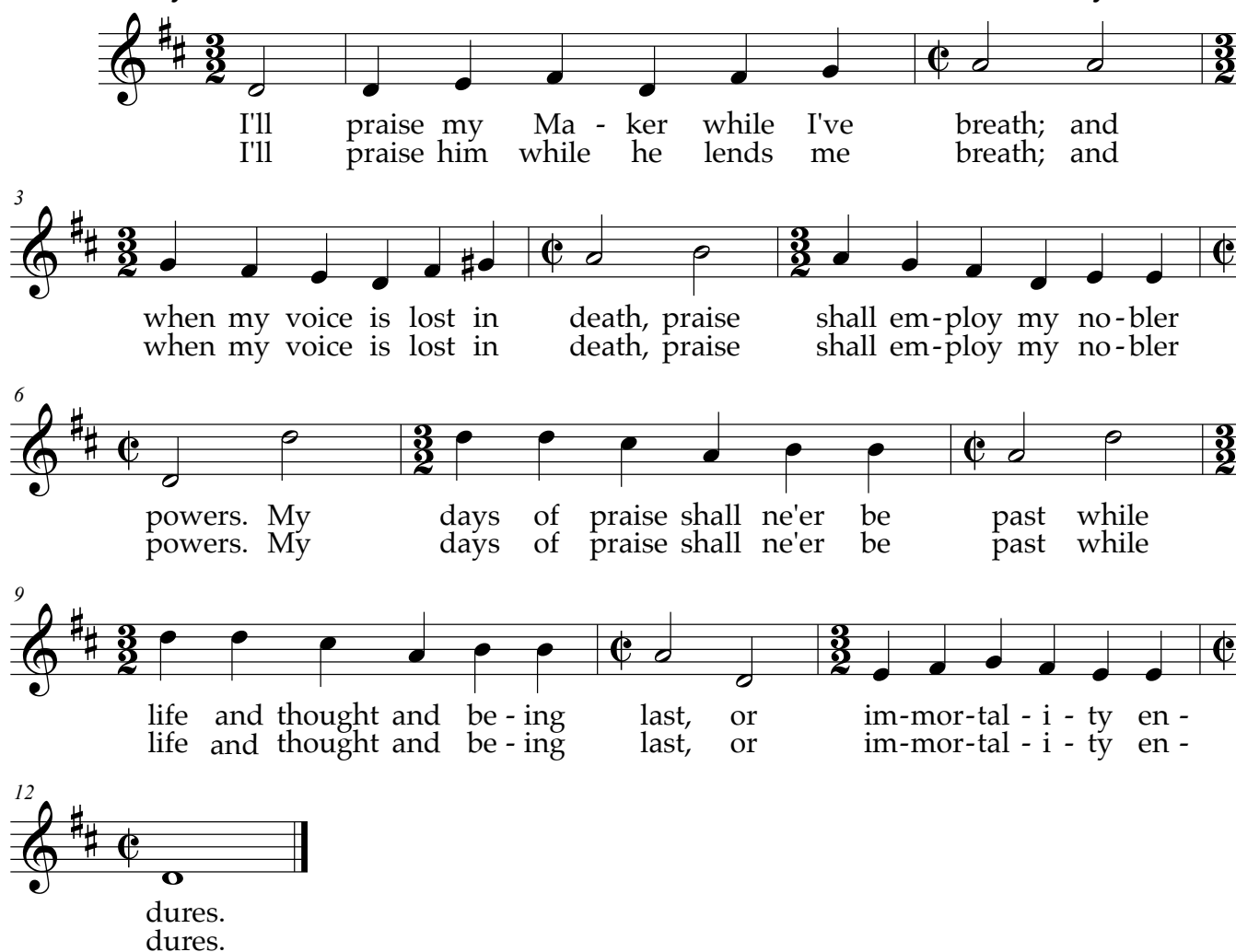
*Kyle Pederson*

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky  
how Jesus the Savior had come for to die;  
for poor orn'ry people like you and like I;  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.  
How I, a mere mortal, may look up in awe  
as Bethlehem's star beckons me through the dawn;  
It shines on the manger, the Prince of all peace  
and bids me to wonder, "Is this gift for me?" Emmanuel.  
The gift in the manger is given for all,  
the strong and heroic, the lost and the small.  
Christ bids to our stone hearts, "come soften and give,"  
And offers his own heart so others may live.  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky,  
How the light of the heavens is born in this child.  
The universe dances with glory and grace  
And I gaze in the manger and see love's face. Emmanuel.  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.*

*St. Francis Choir*

The Offertory Hymn  
I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath

Hymnal #429



I'll praise my Ma - ker while I've breath; and  
I'll praise him while he lends me breath; and

when my voice is lost in death, praise shall em-ploy my no-bler  
when my voice is lost in death, praise shall em-ploy my no-bler

powers. My days of praise shall ne'er be past while  
powers. My days of praise shall ne'er be past while

life and thought and be - ing last, or im-mor-tal - i - ty en -  
life and thought and be - ing last, or im-mor-tal - i - ty en -

dures.  
dures.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748); alt. John Wesley (1703-1791), alt.; para. of Psalm 146.  
Music: "Old 113th," melody from "Strassburger Kirchenami," 1525; harm. Vicar Earle Copes (b. 1921).

*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.

The Sanctus                      Holy, Holy, Holy Lord                      Forest Green (Tune: #78)

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

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

#### Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Hymnal #640

1 Watch - man, tell us of the night, what its signs of pro - mise are.  
Watch - man, tell us of the night, high - er yet that star — a - scends.  
Watch - man, tell us of the night, for the morn - ing seems to dawn.

5 Trav - eler, o'er yon moun - tain's height, see that glo - ry beam - ing star.  
Trav - eler, bless - ed - ness and light, peace and truth its course por - tends.  
Trav - eler, dark - ness takes its flight, doubt and ter - ror are with - drawn.

9 Watch - man, does its beau - teous ray aught of joy or hope fore - tell?  
Watch - man, will its beams a - lone gild the spot that gave them birth?  
Watch - man, let thy wan - derings cease; hie thee to thy qui - et — home.

13 Trav - eler, yes; it brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el.  
Trav - eler, a - ges are its own; see, it — bursts o'er all the earth.  
Trav - eler, lo! the Prince of Peace, lo! the Son of God is come!

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

## 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  
The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came

Hymnal #265

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  
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  
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  
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. Edwrd Pettman (1865-1943), © 1961 B. Feldman and Co. Ltd., trading as H. Freeman and Co.  
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*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.

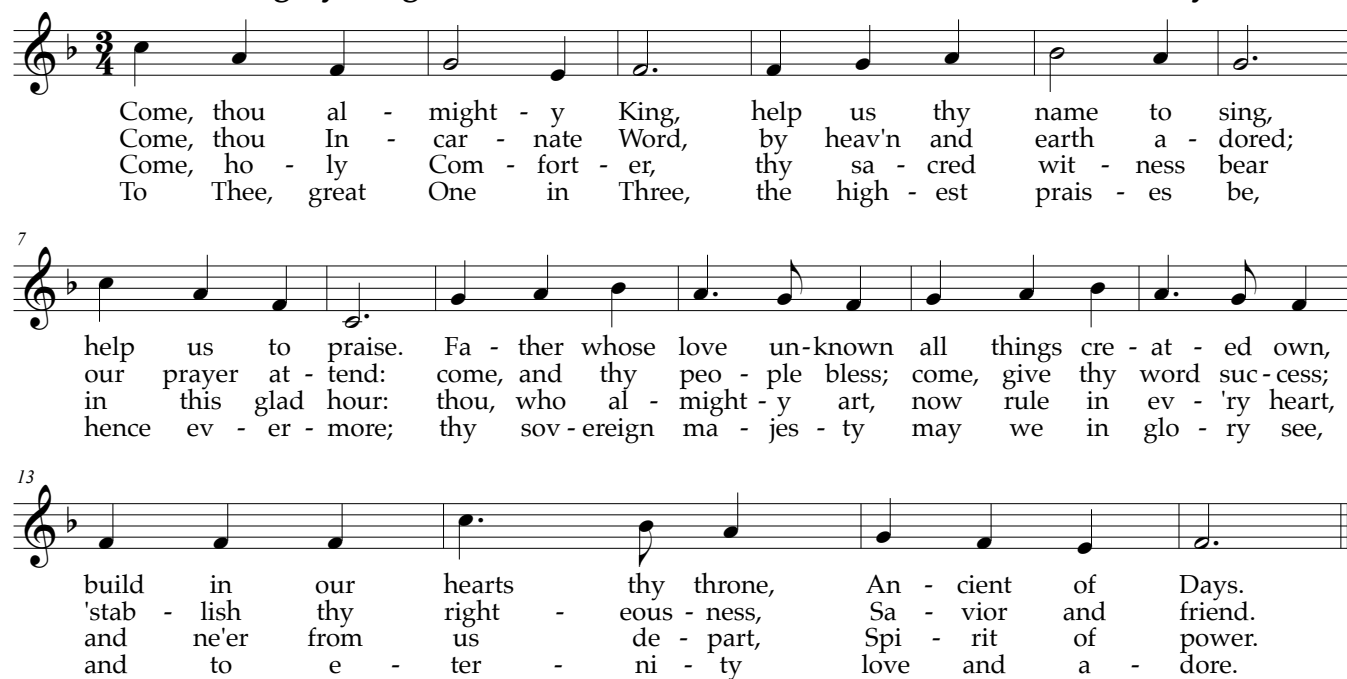
*All* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*Please stand as able and join in singing.*

# The Recessional Hymn

## Come, Thou Almighty King

Hymnal #365



Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing,  
 Come, thou In - car - nate Word, by heav'n and earth a - dored;  
 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear  
 To Thee, great One in Three, the high - est prais - es be,

7  
 help us to praise. Fa - ther whose love un-known all things cre - at - ed own,  
 our prayer at - tend: come, and thy peo - ple bless; come, give thy word suc - cess;  
 in this glad hour: thou, who al - might - y art, now rule in ev - 'ry heart,  
 hence ev - er - more; thy sov - ereign ma - jes - ty may we in glo - ry see,

13  
 build in our hearts thy throne, An - cient of Days.  
 'stab - lish thy right - eous - ness, Sa - vior and friend.  
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spi - rit of power.  
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

Words: Anon ca. 1757, alt. Music: "Moscow," Felice de Giardini (1716-1796); harm. "The New Hymnal," 1916,  
 based on "Hymns Ancient and Modern," 1875, and Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

*The Postlude*

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*Thomas Helmore*  
*(organ arr. David Knight)*



# Advent & Christmas at St. Francis

## Third Sunday of Advent Sunday, Dec. 14

8:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite I  
9:00 am – Pop-up Book Fair  
10:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite II  
11:30 am – Faithful Families Potluck

## 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)



## Wanted: Volunteers to fold Bulletins for Christmas services

Are you available to come to the church office on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 23, from noon to 3:00 pm to fold bulletins for the Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Sunday, Dec. 28, services? If you can help, please contact Gina at 310-375-4617 or [gina.mcqueen@stfrancispalosverdes.org](mailto:gina.mcqueen@stfrancispalosverdes.org).

## Calling all shepherds, animals, angels, and wise men!

We want you! It's time for the St. Francis Christmas pageant. Please let Jennifer Sams know if you would like a specific costume for the pageant. You will pick them up at 3:30 on Christmas Eve and we will tell you everything you need to do. No speaking necessary. Just children ready to be a part of the story of Jesus's birth. If you have any questions please email Jennifer at [ajsams@verizon.net](mailto:ajsams@verizon.net).

## Faithful Families Potluck and Pop-Up Book Fair Sunday, December 14

On Sunday, December 14, St. Francis will host a pop-up book fair from Moonstone & Mist, a new independent bookstore in Redondo Beach. The book fair will be open from 9:00 am to noon and will run alongside our monthly Faithful Families Potluck in the Parish Hall after the 10:00 am service.

Moonstone & Mist features books by local, diverse, and LGBTQA+ authors, along with children's Bible stories, themed cookbooks, and a wonderful selection of additional titles. Come browse, support a local bookseller, and pick up meaningful gifts for the season!

Learn more about Moonstone & Mist on their website at <https://www.moonstoneandmist.com/>

## 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!

## Help Us Deck the Halls for Christmas Monday, December 22

As we prepare for the beauty and joy of the Christmas season, the St. Francis Altar Guild would love a few extra hands to help decorate the church. We'll gather on Monday, December 22 at 9:00 a.m., and even 30 minutes to an hour of your time would make a big difference.

If you enjoy Christmas greenery, bows, candles, or simply good company while preparing a sacred space, we'd be grateful to have you join us. Come be part of making St. Francis shine for our Christmas services!



## 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



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