

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 21, 2025 ♦ 10:00 am

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Jason Shelby

Deacon: The Rev. Celeste Stump

Guest Musician: Mark Bassett, Cello



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.

Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Val & Holly Valiquette in loving memory of Carmela Valiquette, and in thanksgiving for Holly Valiquette.

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

This Week at St. Francis

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

Monday, December 22

- 9:00 am Altar Guild "Deck the Halls"
- 6:00 pm St. Anne's Guild Meeting
- 7:00 pm Sunday Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 23

- 9:00 am Altar Guild "Deck the Halls"
- 4:30 pm Teen Tuesday (Parish Hall)
- 7:00 pm Taizé (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Church office closed

- 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
- 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00 pm Choir Christmas Concert
- 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day

Church office closed

- 9:00 am Christmas Morning Service (Chapel)

Sunday, December 28

- 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)

Note: The church office will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2025 through Friday, Jan. 2, 2026.

*For more worship opportunities, events, and small groups,
visit our website at <https://stfrancispalosverdes.org/>*

The Word of God

Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Processional Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymnal #56

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

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

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

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

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 excess Deo

Hymnal #96

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in 4/4 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the Treble staff, and the bass line is in the Bass staff. 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 bass line.

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.

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

Please be seated.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A family steps forward.

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

The candles are lit.

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

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

The First Lesson: 1 Samuel 1:19-28

Reader A Reading from the First book of Samuel.

¹⁹They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the LORD."

²¹The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. ²²But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and remain there forever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time." ²³Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only — may the LORD establish his word." So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. ²⁴When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young. ²⁵Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. ²⁶And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. ²⁷For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him. ²⁸Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD."

She left him there for the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response: Canticle of Hannah: 1 Samuel 2:1-10

Reader Let us read from the Canticle of Hannah responsively
(the People reading the text in bold).



© 2025, Mark Bennett

^{1b} "My heart exults in the LORD;
my strength is exalted in my God.

**My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in my victory."**

² "There is no Holy One like the LORD,
**no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God."**

³ Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
**for the LORD is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed."**

⁴ The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength."

⁵ Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.

**The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn."Refrain**

⁶The LORD kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

⁷The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts."

⁸He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honor.

**For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's,
and on them he has set the world."**

⁹"He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,
**but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness;
for not by might does one prevail."**

¹⁰The LORD! His adversaries shall be shattered;
the Most High will thunder in heaven.

**The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;
he will give strength to his king,
and exalt the power of his anointed."Refrain**

The Second Lesson: Titus 3:4-7

Reader A Reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Sequence Hymn

How Bright Appears the Morning Star

Hymnal #497

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, with line numbers 4, 8, 12, and 17 indicating the start of new lines of music.

How bright ap - pears the Morn - ing star, with mer - cy beam - ing
Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise, ye sin - ners

4
from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es; O right - eous Branch, O
fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion. In - car - nate God, put

8
Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and Son of God! We, too, will lift our
forth thy power, ride on, ride on, great Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal -

12
voic - es: Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly yet most low - ly,
va - tion. A - men, A - men! Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

17
draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.
Praise be giv - en ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

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

Please remain standing as able.

The Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

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

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the

Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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, 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

O Bethlehem

by Christin Kieckhafer

*O Bethlehem, how still you lie.
Above your dreamless sleep silent stars go by.
O Bethlehem, how dark the night.
Within your shadowed streets shines the Everlasting Light.
O Bethlehem, how silently He came.
Greatest gift from heaven without wealth or fame.
O Bethlehem, how great your hope and fear,
Lay to rest your wearied past, Your Promised One is near, He is near.
O Bethlehem, the Heavens shone bright!
In a field not far away, shepherds witnessed the sight.
O Bethlehem, how the angels sing!
O hear them proclaim the birth of the King of kings.
O Bethlehem, he's come to us. O Bethlehem, He abides with us.
O Bethlehem, hear the angels tell how the Great I Am has become Emmanuel.*

St. Francis Choir

Mark Bassett, cello

The Offertory Hymn
The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Hymnal #265

The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came, — his
Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born — in

3 wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes — as flame; — "All
Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, — and

5 hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry, — most
Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say - 'Most

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

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: "Gabriel's Message," Basque carol,
harm. Edward Pettman (1865-1943), © 1961 B. Feldman and Co. Ltd., trading as H. Freeman and Co.
Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd, London, England.

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.

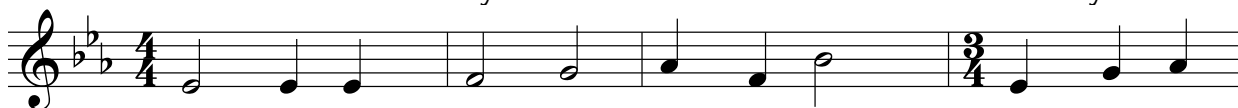
Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

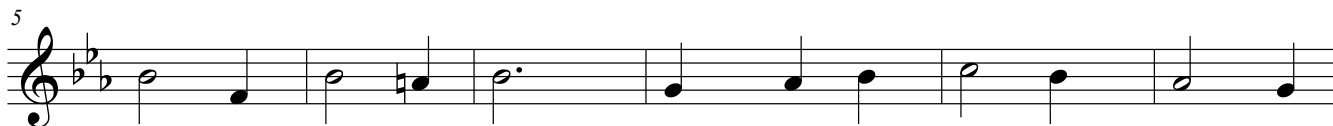
The Fraction Anthem

The Word Whom Earth and Sea and Sky

Hymnal #264



The Word whom earth and sea and sky a - dore and
To Ma - ry the Arch - an - gel came and God's new
Blest in the mes - sage Ga - briel brought, blest in the
Lord Je - sus, Vir - gin - born, to thee e - ter - nal



laud and mag - ni - fy, whose might they show, whose praise they
mes - sage did pro - claim, "Hail, Ma - ry, you shall bear a
work the Spi - rit wrought, most blest to bring to hu - man
praise and glo - ry be, whom with the Fa - ther we a -



tell, in Ma - ry's bo - dy deigned to dwell.
son who shall be called the Ho - ly One."
birth the long - de - sired of all the earth.
dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Latin, 7th-8th cent.; sts. 1 and 3-4, tr. "Hymns Ancient and Modern," 1861, after John Mason Neale (1818-1866); st. 2, tr. Anne K. LeCroy (b. 1930); Sts. 1, 3-4 © Hope Publishing Company.

All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission. Music: "Song 34," melody and bass Orlando Gibbons (1563-1625); harm. "The English Hymnal," 1906, alt.

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

Gabriel's Message Does Away

Hymnal #270

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words on multiple lines to fit the syllables.

Ga - briel's mes - sage does a - way Sa - tan's curse and
He that comes de - spised shall reign; he that can - not
Weak - ness shall the strong con - found; by the hands, in
Art by art shall be as - sailed; to the cross shall

4
Sa - tan's sway, out of dark - ness brings our day: so, be -
die, be slain; death by death its death shall gain: so, be -
grave clothes wound, Ad - am's chains shall be un - bound: so, be -
Life be nailed; from the grave shall hope be hailed: so, be -

8
hold, all the gates of heaven un - fold.
hold, all the gates of heaven un - fold.
hold, all the gates of heaven un - fold.
hold, all the gates of heaven un - fold.

Words: "Piae Cantiones," 1582; tr, John Mason Neale (1818-1866). Music: "Angelus emittitur,"
melody from "Piae Cantiones," 1582; harm. Richard Runciman Terry (1865-1938); © 1961,
B. Feldman and Co.Ltd, trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of
EMI Music Publishi8ng Ltd.

Special Musical Offering

Sweet Little Jesus Boy

by Robert Mac Gimsey

Tony Lowe, tenor

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

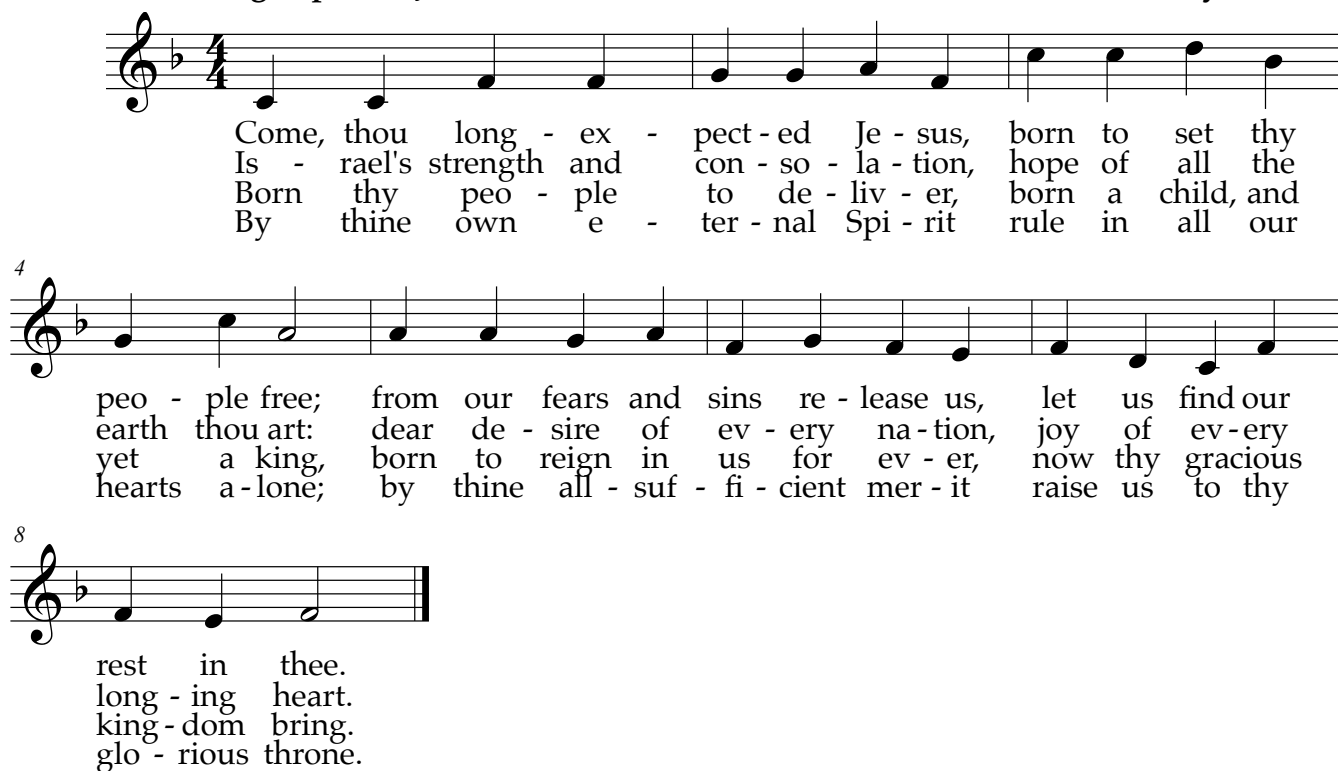
Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Recessional Hymn
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Hymnal #66



Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy
Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the
Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and
By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our

4

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our
earth thou art: dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery
yet a king, born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gracious
hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy

8

rest in thee.
long - ing heart.
king - dom bring.
glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: "Stuttgart,"
melody from "Psalmody Sacra, oder Andächtige un Schöne Gesänge," 1715;
adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870).

The Postlude

Rorate Coeli

Pietro A. Yon

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!

Volunteers Needed to fold Bulletins for Christmas services

Tuesday, December 23

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.

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 pm 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.



CAMP PENDLETON AND FORT MACARTHUR COLLECTION

Saturday, January 10, 2026
9:00am-12:00pm

SUPPORT OUR MILITARY FAMILIES

Camp Pendleton is home to over 70,000 Marines and 10,000 children under 5. More than 160 babies are born there each month. Most families arrive with only what fits in their car and often lack essentials for newborns and small children, plus furnishings for their housing. The Rotary Clubs of District 5280 are collecting new and gently used items for these families to select from at Camp Pendleton's "Warrior Warehouse" and Fort MacArthur's "Airman's Attic", which is filled with donated items that are free for local military families.

ITEMS NEEDED

- Diapers
- Baby & children's clothes
- Toys, books, bathtubs, strollers, cribs
- Dishes, cookware, meal prep tools
- Bedding
- Gift cards (\$25) to Target/Walmart

DROP OFF


Hawthorne High School
 4859 El Segundo Blvd.
 Hawthorne, CA 90250

For More Information:

David Henseler
 Rotary Club of South Bay Sunrise
 310-753-0929

Bring items by Friday, January 9, 2026 to the church office or Susie's house (call for address).

Items will be loaded to drop off at Hawthorne High School on Jan. 10. Meet at St. Francis at 8:15 a.m. to load. Leave at 8:45 a.m.

St. Francis Contact:

Susie Zimmerman
susiezimmerman@gmail.com
 or leave text: (310) 316-5941

If you can help drop off items on January 10, please contact Susie.

Merry
Christmas

From your friends at St. Francis!

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, Will Piepenbring, and Michael Valiquette.

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, 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