



**St Benedict's Episcopal Church**  
**Los Osos, California**  
*~ Tending Mind and Soul ~*  
**The Third Sunday of Advent**  
December 12, 2021 ~ 10:30 AM SERVICE

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your faith journey, there's a warm welcome for you here

**Prelude: "Emmanuel"**

*VENI EMMANUEL*, Mode I, French. 15<sup>th</sup> c. Arr. Chris de Silva © 2018 GIA Publications

Celebrant: *Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*  
People: *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath** [see back page]

**Taizé**

G332

[Cantors will sing the Verses, congregation will join in the Refrain.]

**R**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

**V**

1. Prepare the way for the Lord. Make a straight path for God. Prepare the way for the Lord.
2. Rejoice in the Lord always: God is at hand. Joy and gladness for all who seek the Lord.
3. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed. All the earth will see the Lord.
4. I waited for the Lord. God heard my cry.
5. Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, our God.
6. Seek first the kingdom of God. Seek and you shall find.
7. O Lord, show us your way. Guide us in your truth.

Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6-7; Taizé Community, 1984  
Tune: Jacques Berthier, b. 1923 © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

All: *Almighty God, 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..*

### Trisagion

Sung 3 times

S-102

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

© Church Pension Fund

### Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you  
People: *And also with you.*  
Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: *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.*

### Zephaniah 3:14-20

Lector: *A Reading from the prophet Zephaniah*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Lector: *The Word of the Lord*  
People: *Thanks be to God*

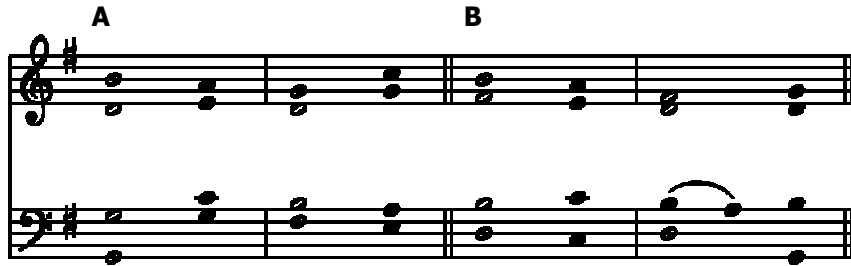
## Canticle 9

### “The First Song of Isaiah”

Isaiah 12:2-6

[chanted]

S-409



- A Surely, it is God who /saves me;  
I will trust in him and not be a/fraid.
- B For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure de/fense,  
and he will be my /Savior.
- A Therefore you shall draw water with re/joicing  
from the springs of sal/vation.
- B And on that day you shall /say,  
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his /Name;
- A Make his deeds known among the /peoples;  
see that they remember that his Name is ex/alted.
- B Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great /things,  
and this is known in all the /world.
- A Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your /joy,  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of /Israel.
- B Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy/Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. A/men.

## Philippians 4:4-7

Lector: *A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Lector: *The Word of the Lord*

People: ***Thanks be to God***

*Descant*

2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;  
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."  
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;  
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk  
This selection is in the public domain.

### Luke 3:7-18

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ According to Luke.

People: *Glory to You, Lord Christ.*

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his

threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Gospeller: *The Gospel of Christ.*

People: *Praise to You, Lord Christ.*

## **The Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall

*[We pause for a few moments' reflection before affirming our faith.]*

## **Nicene Creed**

*Let us stand and join in the Affirmation of our Faith*

All: *We trust in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We trust 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 trust in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We trust 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.*

## Prayers of the People

BCP Form III

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for your holy catholic church;  
***That we all may be one.***

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
***That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
***That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Give to the departed eternal rest;  
***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
***May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

[Prayers are read from the bidding book; additional prayers may be added.]

Celebrant: *Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

## Confession and Absolution

*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.***

*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.*

## The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

To maintain safe social distancing, please simply greet others verbally or with a bow or nod.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

Those wanting a special prayer for a birthday, anniversary, or travel, may come forward.  
Prayers can be found on the white card in your pew.

## Offertory

Collection plates are not passed, but you may put your contributions in the plate by the usher's station before the service, or at the Peace, or contribute at our website any time.

## Offertory Hymn

*"Blessed Be the God of Israel"*

H44



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;  
2 He from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;  
3 On pri - son - ers of dark-ness the sun be - gins to rise,



he vis - its and re - deems us, he grants us lib - er - ty.  
a Sa - vior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.  
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The pro - phets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;  
Be - fore him goes his her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,  
He guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall ful - fill his prom - ise and bring his peo - ple peace.\_\_\_\_  
the pro - phet of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of Day.\_\_\_\_  
O bless our God and Sa - vior, with songs that nev - er cease.\_\_\_\_

Words: Michael A. Perry © 1973 by Jubilate Hymns, admin. by Hope Publishing Co.,  
Music: *Thornbury*, Basil Harwood, Public domain.

## The Holy Eucharist

BCB-A

( Please Stand )

## Doxology

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow*

*Praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia*

*Praise God the Source of all our gifts*

*Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts*

*Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia*

H400

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 God thanks and praise.***

Celebrant        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 with out 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:

**Sanctus**

S125

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music Setting From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx.

The Celebrant continues:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,

“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.”



After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks,  
he gave it to them, and said,

“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People:

***Christ has died.,  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.***

Celebrant:

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and  
thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son,  
the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully  
receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day  
bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ.

All: ***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**

*And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,*

***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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.***

## The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.  
A period of silence is kept.

### Fraction Anthem

S-154



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
there - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music Setting From *New Plainsong*, David Hurd.

### Holy Communion

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.  
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

This is God's table, and all are welcome here.

As your group is called forward, please spread out to widen the circle and increase safe social distancing.  
The consecrated bread will be distributed to you individually, that you may consume it.  
The cup of consecrated wine will be held before you, that you may receive it with your eyes.

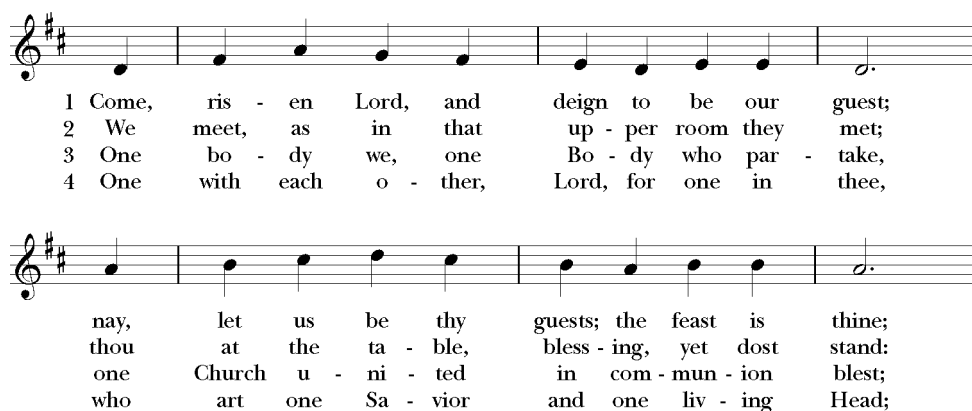
### Communion Music: "Winter"

CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874-1934 Arr. Chris de Silva © 2016 GIA Publications

### Communion Hymn

"Come Risen Lord"

H306



1 Come, ris - en Lord, and deign to be our guest;  
2 We meet, as in that up - per room they met;  
3 One bo - dy we, one Bo - dy who par - take,  
4 One with each o - ther, Lord, for one in thee,  
may, let us be thy guests; the feast is thine;  
thou at the ta - ble, bless - ing, yet dost stand:  
one Church u - ni - ted in com - mun - ion blest;  
who art one Sa - vior and one liv - ing Head;

thy - self at thine own board make man - i - fest  
 "This is my Bo - dy"; so thou giv - est yet:  
 one Name we bear, one Bread of life we break,  
 then o - pen thou our eyes, that we may see;

in thine own Sac - ra - ment of Bread and Wine.  
 faith still re - ceives the cup as from thy hand.  
 with all thy saints on earth and saints at rest.  
 be known to us in break - ing of the Bread.

Words: George Wallace Briggs. Music: *Sursum Corda*, Alfred Morton Smith. Church Pub. Co.

*(We pause for a moment of silence before joining together in our final prayer)*

All: ***Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
 You have graciously accepted us  
 as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
 and you have fed us with spiritual food  
 in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
 Send us now into the world in peace,  
 and grant us strength and courage  
 to love and serve you  
 with gladness and singleness of heart;  
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

## The Blessing

May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
 be with you all and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

## Announcements

## Final Hymn

*"Sleepers Wake"*

H 61

1 "Sleep - ers, wake!" A voice a - stounds us, the  
 2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her  
 3 Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let

shout of ram - part - guards sur - rounds us: "A -  
heart with joy - ful hope is spring - ing, she  
saints and an - gels sing be - fore you, as

wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!" Mid - night's peace their  
wakes and hur - ries through the night. Forth he comes, her  
harps and cym - bals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the

cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum - mons clear - ly spo -  
Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in truth vic - to -  
ci - ty's por - tals: through them we stream to join the im - mor -

ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!  
rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.  
tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.

Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in  
Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate  
No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -

sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and  
 Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and  
 light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to

has - ten there, that you the wed - ding feast may share.”  
 heed your call to come in - to the ban - quet hall.  
 greet our King; for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

Words: Philipp Nicolai © 1982, by Hope Publishing Company;  
 Music: *Wachet auf*, melody Hans Sachs, arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach. Public Domain.

## The Dismissal.

Celebrant: Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth into the world,  
 rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!*

## Postlude: "Hope"

Incorporating *FOREST GREEN* and *EN IST EIN ROS'* Arr. by Joel Raney © 2016 Hope Publishing

Today's Eucharist Liturgy is  
 Eucharistic Prayer A from the Book of Common Prayer  
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## THIS WEEK AT ST. BENEDICT'S

### Sunday, Dec 12

- 8:00 am – Contemplative Eucharist service (also on Zoom)
- 9:20 am – Bible Study
- 10:30 am – Eucharist service – (also live-streamed on FB)
- 12:30 pm – Parish Council Meeting

### Monday, Dec 13 RECTOR'S SABBATH

### Tuesday, Dec 14

- 9:45 am – Prayers for the Morning (Zoom)
- 10:15 am – Spiritual Conversation: "The Book of Joy" (Zoom)
- 5:30 pm – Vespers service, in person at the church ( also on Zoom)

**Wednesday, Dec 15**

3:00 pm – Earthcare Meeting  
5:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, Dec 16**

3:00 pm – Advent Study: “All the Earth is Waiting” (In-person and on Zoom)

**Saturday, Dec 18**

9:00 am – Men’s Breakfast at Celia’s Garden Café

**Sunday, Dec 19**

8:00 am – Contemplative Eucharist service (also on Zoom)  
9:20 am – Bible Study  
10:30 am – Eucharist service – (also live-streamed on FB)  
3:00 pm – Celebration of Carols Christmas Concert (also on FB)

+ + + + + + + + + **CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE** + + + + + + + + +

**A Celebration of Carols** with the St Benedict Singers  
Sunday December 19 at 3pm

**Blue Christmas Service**  
Tuesday December 21 at 5:30pm, instead of Vespers

**Christmas Eve Services** - Friday December 24  
Carols and Communion around the Crèche at 4:30pm  
Sung Festival Eucharist – at 8pm, preceded by Carols at 7:45pm

**Christmas Day** – Saturday December 25  
Quiet Communion Service with *a cappella* carols – 10am  
Followed by a light brunch

**First Sunday after Christmas** – Sunday December 26  
*Contemplative Communion Service* – 8am  
*Christmas Lessons and Carols Service* – 10:30am

+ +

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT NEXT SUNDAY** - Join us next Sunday afternoon at 3pm for our annual carol concert. Enjoy a lively sing-a-long of familiar carols from across the centuries, and special music presented by the St Benedict Singers and community musicians. This event will be live-streamed on Facebook for those who don't attend in person. Due to Covid restrictions seating is limited and there are very few seats left. Contact the church office or follow the link on our website to see if there are any still available. The concert is free and refreshments will follow.

**VOLUNTEER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** - If you participate in one of the service ministries, or would like to, and plan to attend either the 4:30 or 8:00pm Christmas Eve services, please let Lorianne Schwenk know that you're available. (805)-200-7908 (text is best). She is working on the schedule but needs to hear from people volunteering for those services.

**POINSETTIAS** - If you would like to honor a loved one by contributing for Christmas poinsettias, please use the envelopes at the usher’s station to indicate the exact wording of your dedication (as in memory, thanksgiving, or honor.) Please print clearly. Suggested contribution is \$10 each. Place envelope in offering plate. **Deadline: Dec 19**

**OPERATING FUND INCOME FOR NOVEMBER**

|                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nov Income: \$10,446.06    | YTD Income: \$182,221.12  |
| Nov Budget: \$13,454.17    | YTD Budget: \$147,995.87  |
| Nov Deficit: (\$ 3,008.11) | YTD Surplus: \$ 34,225.25 |

## CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-- Birthdays--  
Dec 16 Jane Wu

-- Wedding Anniversaries --  
Dec 13 Don & Liz Maruska  
Dec 17 David & Sarah Chesebro

## COMING IN JANUARY:

**Epiphany Star Party** – Wednesday, January 5 – 6:30pm  
**Memorial Svc for Larry Swafford** – Saturday, January 15 – 3pm  
**Annual Parish Meeting** – Sunday, January 23 – 12:00pm  
**Tree-planting workday** – Saturday, January 29th  
Beginning in January, there will **no longer be an 8am service**  
on the first Sunday of the month

**TUESDAY SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION** - Our current Tuesday morning spiritual conversation is based on The Book of Joy by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama. This conversation is open to anyone and everyone whether or not you read the book. On-line via Zoom on Tuesdays at 10:15am. A service of **Prayers for the Morning** is also available on Tuesdays, starting at 9:45.

**ADVENT STUDY GROUP** Advent is a special time of preparation; preparing our inner selves for the coming of the Christ. To help us do that, we will have an online Advent study group on Thursdays at 3pm. The meetings will include time for prayer and silence as well as conversation based on **All Earth is Waiting – Good News for God’s Creation at Advent** by Katie Z. Dawson. We will explore the familiar Advent themes of hope, preparation, joy, and peace with the heavens and earth in mind and consider how all creation longs for the coming of Christ, taking seriously the notion that the good news of Christ is good news for all the world. Sessions will last no more than 90 minutes and will be in-person at the church and also available on Zoom Dec 2 through Jan 6 (skipping Dec 30). A few books are available at the church or from <https://www.cokesbury.com/All-Earth-Is-Waiting>.

**PERSONAL PRAYER** – A member of the Healing Prayer Ministry team is available each week after the 10:30 service to pray with you for special concerns. If you’d like this prayer support during the week, contact **Louisa Beeler** at (805) 543-2898. If no answer, please leave a message and your call will be returned.

**BIDDING BOOK PRAYERS** – If you’d like to request prayers for someone to have their names read out during the worship services on Sunday, please write them in the bidding book on the stand by the usher’s station as you come into church.

**DONATIONS** - Collection plates are not passed during the service, but you may put your contributions in the plate by the usher’s station before the service, or contribute on-line at: <https://www.StBensLosOsos.org/support-us/> or by mail to our PO Box. Thank you for your offerings! We are grateful for God’s financial providence and blessing.

**ST. BENEDICT’S CONNECTIONS** - Please do not hesitate to reach out to each other to stay in contact, and feel free to contact Caro+ at 805-704-5826 or [caro@stbenslososos.org](mailto:caro@stbenslososos.org). She loves to hear from you. In an emergency, texts are best.

## Ministers of Today’s Service

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Celebrant:            | The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall   |
| Eucharistic Minister: | Lisa Gonzalez  |
| Lector:               | Jane Wu  |
| Cantors:              | Lorienne Schwenk, Anne Kanter, Brenna Linn,<br>Alan Kiste, and Brian Spolarich |
| Flute:                | Anne Kanter  |
| Piano:                | David Alm  |
| Ushers:               | Barbara Schippers & Maureen Titus  |
| Altar Guild:          | Sarah Chesebro   |
| Flowers:              | Sharon Porter  |
| Prayer Team:          | Lisa Gonzalez  |
| Tellers:              | Jane Wu & Diana Hammerlund   |
| Online Hosts:         | Suzan Vaughn & Pat Henry   |



## Third Sunday of Advent - JOY

We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the holiday songs, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

*[Three Candles are lit.]*

All:

***Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season.***

***As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination.***

***Show us the creative power of hope.***

***Teach us the peace that comes from justice.***

***Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.***

***Magnify your love within us.***

***Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,***

***That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.***