



**St Benedict's Episcopal Church**  
**Los Osos, California**  
*~ Tending Mind and Soul ~*  
**The Second Sunday of Advent**  
December 5, 2021 ~ 10:30 AM SERVICE

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

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**Prelude: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

15th century French melody;

Adapted by: David Alm

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Celebrant: **Blessed** be the one, holy, and living God.

People: **And blessed be God's kin-dom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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

**Taizé**

*"Prepare the Way of the Lord"*

G336

Canon

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord, and  
all peo-ple will see the sal - va-tion of our God. Pre-

Text: *Luke 3:4,6*; Taizé Community, Tune: Jacques Berthier  
© 1984, Les Presses de Taizé GIA Publications, Inc., agent

All: **Holy and Life-Giving Spirit, you know our innermost thoughts even before they break through into consciousness; you teach us how to pray. Breathe your breath into our hearts and minds this morning. Prepare us for worship, that our thoughts may turn to you and our hearts bow down in grateful praise of God - Creator, Word, and Holy Spirit. 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: *Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

## Baruch 5:1-9

Lector: *A Reading from the book of Baruch*

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Lector: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People*

People: *Thanks be to God*

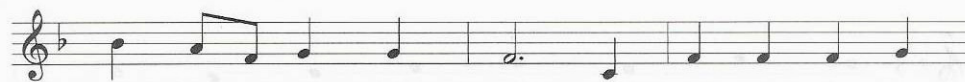
Canticle

“The Song of Zachary”

G775



1. Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, Who  
 2. Re - mem - ber - ing the cov - e - nant, God  
 3. In - ten - der mer - cy, God will send The



comes in love and pow'r, Who rais - es from the  
 res - cues us from fear, That we might serve in  
 day - spring from on high, Our ris - ing sun, the



roy - al house De - liv - 'rance in this hour. Through  
 ho - li - ness And peace from year to year; And  
 light of life For those who sit and sigh. God



ho - ly proph - ets God has sworn To  
 you, my child, shall go be - fore To  
 comes to guide our way to peace, That



free us from a - larm, To save us from the  
 preach, to proph - e - sy, That all may know the  
 death shall reign no more. Sing prais - es to the



heav - y hand Of all who wish us harm.  
 ten - der love, The grace of God most high.  
 Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

Text: *Benedictus*, Luke 1:68-79; Ruth Duck © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.  
 Tune: *Forest Green*; harm. by Michael Joncas © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.

## Philippians 1:3-11

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

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Lector: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People*

People: *Thanks be to God*

## Gospel Hymn

*"Alleluia VII"*

[ Sing three times before the Gospel, one time after: ]



J Berthier © 1984 Taizé, via GIA Pub. , agents

## Luke 3:1-6

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

People: *Glory to You, Lord Christ.*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Gospeller: *The Gospel of Christ.*

People: *Praise to You, Lord Christ.*

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

## Affirmation of Faith

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

[Sung to Hymn Tune #115, *Greensleeves*]

WLP 769

We believe in God almighty, Author of all things that be,  
Maker of the earth and heavens, Keeper of the sky and sea.  
We believe in God's son, Jesus, now for us both Lord and Christ,  
of the Spirit and of Mary born to bring abundant life.

We believe that Jesus suffered, scourged and scorned and crucified;  
taken from the cross, was buried—True Life there had truly died.  
We believe that on the third day Christ was raised up from the grave,  
then ascended to God's right hand. He will come to judge and save.

We believe in God's own Spirit, bonding all the saints within  
one church, catholic and holy, where forgiveness frees from sin;  
in the body's resurrection, for the breaking of death's chain  
gives the life that's everlasting. This the faith that we have claimed.

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993); © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.  
Tune: Public Domain

## Prayers of the People

Wherever we are, in the wilderness, the countryside, or the city, God, you are there. That our hearts may be stirred up in thanksgiving for the life you have given us, let us pray, saying: God, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

For the gifts of creation, for the sun that lights our day and the moon and stars that shelter the night: May our eyes be open to the beauty around us, the subtle changes in the sky, the delicate coating of soil from which breaks forth our food and flowers and in which animals make their home. Help us to protect and nurture your creation around us and ever proclaim its wonders. God, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

For the church in every place: May we be ever mindful of the richness of the family of the church, the persons next to us in the pew, those in our neighboring churches, the national, international, and ecumenical church of every race, nation and economic circumstance. Let us give thanks for the web of friendship and trust that you give to those who are called the friends of Christ. God, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

For those in authority: Let us pray for Christians who witness in places hostile to the gospel, and let us be thankful for our freedom to practice our faith. Let us pray for the leaders of nations that Christ may transform strangers into friends that all may see your salvation. God, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

For this community in our joys and sorrows: Let us remember those who have gone before us, those who have sacrificed for us. Help us to look for what is below the obvious, and from this depth to reach out to others. Help us to know the joy that is mingled even with our utmost grief. Let us give

thanks for this gathering of God's people and for the renewal of life we are given. God, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

For those at greatest risk among us: Let us pray for those lonely, rejected, or oppressed, for the sick and those who struggle to regain their strength, for those among us with the longest memories to link us to the past, and for the newborn, in whose baptism our baptism is again renewed. May all in any need receive God's mercy, remembering especially those for whom our prayers have been asked and those who are in our hearts...

[Prayers from the bidding book are read.

The people may add additional prayers silently or aloud.]

God, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Celebrant: *Lord, gather up our prayers with those of all your people in every place, and as you prepare the way, making every valley filled and every mountain brought low in blessing and adoration, guide us to Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Intercessions for the Christian People © 1990 Liturgical Press

## Confession and Absolution

*Let us confess our sins to God.*

All: *God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
the evil done on our behalf,  
and the good that we have left undone.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.*

*May the All-Compassionate 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

"There's a Voice in the Wilderness"

H75

1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
2 O Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee  
3 but the word of our God en - du - reth, the

call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst of

high - way, a high - way for our God! The  
peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the  
na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall

val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
flowers of the field they per - ish, like  
feed his flock like a shep - herd, the

lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of  
lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll

pla - ces where the Lord our God may go!  
na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way;  
lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

Words: James Lewis Milligan, public domain;

Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft © 1938, H. Hugh Bancroft. Church Pub. Inc.

# The Holy Eucharist

EOW-I

( 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 raise our hearts to God.***  
 Celebrant      Let us thank the giver of life..  
 People        ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***  
 Celebrant      It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy  
 God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

## 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:

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.



On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:

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

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Benedict, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

All ***Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
to you be honor, glory, and praise,  
for ever and ever. AMEN.***

### The Lord’s Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now sing:

Jack Noble Whit

Voice

Our Fa-----ther in  
Heaven Holy be- your name Your kingdom come; Your will be  
done on earth as in heav'n. Give us this day our dai-----ly

bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin a - gainst us.

Save us from the time of tri-al and de - li-ver-us from e-vil For the

king - dom the po - wer and the glo - - - - - ry are yours now & for - - - - - ver

A - - - - - men A - - - - - men A - - - - - men

A - - - - - men A - - - - - men.

## 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.

Celebrant: This is the true bread which comes from heaven  
and gives life to the world.

People: ***Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.***

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God  
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: "Après un rêve" Op. 7 No. 1**

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

© 2006 Les Éditions Outremontaises,

Flute soloist: **Anne Kanter**

**Communion Hymn**

*"Let Us Be Bread"*

G 816

Cantors will sing the verses; Congregation will join in the Refrain.

Refrain



Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, bro-ken and shared,



life for the world. Let us be wine, love free-ly poured.



Let us be one in the Lord.

Verse 1



1. I am the bread of life, bro - ken for all.



Eat now and hun - ger no more.

Verse 2



2. You are my friends if you keep my com - mands,



no long - er ser - vants but friends.

Verse 3



3. See how my peo - ple have noth - ing to eat.



Give them the bread that is you.

Verse 4



4. As God has loved me so I have loved you.

Go and live on in my love. D.C.

Text & Tune: Thomas J. Porter © 1990 GIA Pub. Inc.

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

***Father-Mother God,  
 who sent your Son to redeem the world  
 and will send him again to be our judge:  
 give us grace so to imitate him  
 in the humility and purity of his first coming  
 that when he comes again,  
 we may be ready to greet him  
 with joyful love and firm faith;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord  
 Amen.***

*adapted from: Church of Ireland*

## **The Blessing**

May the God who brings heaven close to earth  
 give truth to our judgment and flame to our longing  
 that our hearts might be ready to be born again in love;  
 and may the blessing of God, Creator, Word, and Spirit be among you  
 and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Prayers for an Inclusive Church © 2009 Steven Shakespeare

## **Announcements**

## Final Hymn

### “Prepare the Way O Zion”

H 65



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



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



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



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen; adapt. Charles P. Price © 1982 Chas. Price, Church Pub. Co.  
Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, 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: "Snow (Night Part 1)"**  
by George Winston © 2017 Imaginary Road and Dancing Cat Music (BMI)

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## Ministers of the Service

Celebrant:	The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall
Eucharistic Minister:	Alan Kiste
Lector:	Sandy Fisher
Piano:	David Alm
Flute:	Anne Kanter
Cantors:	Brian Spolarich & Anne Kanter
Ushers:	Brian Spolarich & Connie Weldon
Flowers:	Brian Spolarich
Altar Guild:	Stef Shuman
Prayer Team:	Helen Schnieders
Tellers:	Alice Welchert & Diana Hammerlund

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## Second Sunday of Advent - Peace

Last Sunday we lit the first candle—the candle of hope. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

*[Two candles are lit.]*

All:

***Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning,  
We thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us.  
Show us the creative power of hope.  
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.  
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.***