



St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

Los Osos, California

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023 10:30 am

You are warmly welcome at St. Benedict's for who you are
and where you are on your faith journey!

~ Prelude ~

"O Come O Come Emmanuel"

Arr. by Rudolf Moser

© Concordia Publishing 1953

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: *You come to your people and set them free.*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Fourth Sunday of Advent - LOVE

We have lit three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

[Four 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.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: *All-compassionate and most merciful 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.*

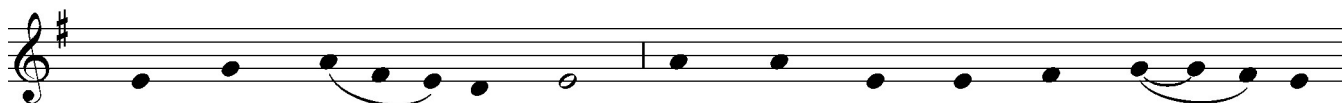
♩ Hymn #56

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Blue Hymnal



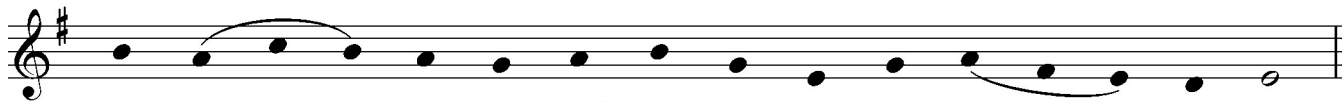
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



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

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

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

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: Christ be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

All: *Purify our conscience, All-compassionate 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*

♪ Trisagion (repeat three times)

S102

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Reader: *A Reading from the second Book of Samuel*

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.
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. *Amen.*

Romans 16:25-27

Reader: *A Reading from Paul's letter to the church in Rome*

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people*

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

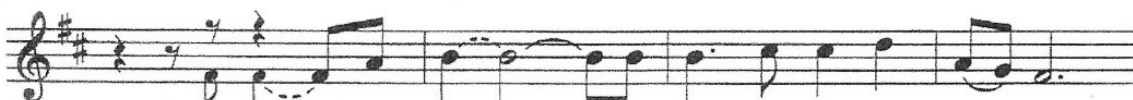
♪ Hymn

Holy is His Name

Verses (♩ = ca. 84)



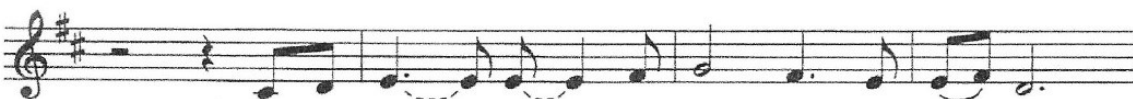
1. My soul ___ pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord, ___
2. He has mer-cy _____ in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.



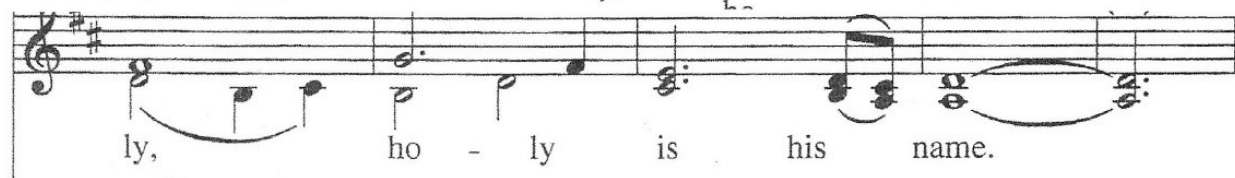
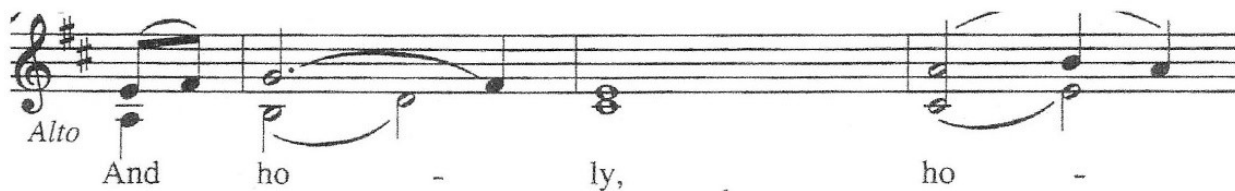
1. and my spir-it ___ ex-alt in God my Sav-ior.
2. He has ___ re-vealed _____ his pow-er and his glo-ry.



1. For he has looked with mer-cy on my low-li-ness,
2. He has cast down the might-y in their ar-ro-gance,



1. and my name ___ will be for-ev-er ex-alt-ed.
2. and has lift-ed up ___ the meek and the low-ly.



*Repeat Final Refrain.

Text: Based on Luke 1:46-55; John Michael Talbot, b. 1954.

Music: John Michael Talbot; arr. by Phil Perkins, b. 1948, and Rick Modlin, b. 1966.

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Administered by EMI Christian Music Group. Used with permission.

Luke 1:26-38

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

People: Glory to You, Lord Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ

People: Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Jen Crompton

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

Affirmation of Faith

Let us join in the affirmation of our faith.

All: ***We believe in God the Creator,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Redeemer,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with God's love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in One God: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. Amen.***

Source: Common Worship, Church of England

Prayers of the People

In the church that looks for you, among the people who proclaim you, with all who seek to serve you, among all who dedicate their lives to you, with all who proclaim that they love you, now with us as we worship you, with the church here in Los Osos and the church throughout the world... Immanuel! ***God, you are with us.***

With the nations striving towards the light, with the seekers for freedom and justice, among those who enrich and extend our lives, with all who bring peace on earth, with the peoples lost in darkness, with the nations caught up in war... Immanuel! ***God, you are with us.***

In our homes as we prepare for your coming, in our relationships and in our loving, in our sharing and in our caring, in our actions and our interactions, here and now, within our community... Immanuel! ***God, you are***

with us.

With the outcasts and the poor, with the unemployed and the homeless, among the scorned and rejected, with the refugees and the stateless, with the persecuted and those who suffer injustice... Immanuel! ***God, you are with us.***

With all who are in pain or sorrow, with all who are in illness or anxiety, with all who fear the future, with those whose life on earth is coming to an end, and with those in any need, especially those in the bidding book...

[here prayers are added from the bidding book and
you are invited to add your own prayers silently or aloud]

Immanuel! ***God, you are with us.***

With the whole church on earth, with our loved ones at rest, with the saints in glory...

Immanuel! ***God, you are with us.***

Celebrant: King of kings, yet born of Mary, you come to dwell among us in great humility, you reveal the great love of God towards us and that we are called to be his own people. Come now among us and give us your peace, that we may live to your praise and glory, Christ our Savior, who is alive and lives and reigns with the Father and the Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

From "Clouds and Glory" by David Adam — © Morehouse Publishing 2001

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,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.*

Celebrant: All-compassionate God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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.*

Please greet others in the chat.

Birthday & Anniversary Prayers

Those wanting a special prayer for a birthday, anniversary, or special concern, please share in the chat.

51. For a Birthday p 830

Watch over thy child, O Lord, as *his/her/their* days increase; bless and guide *him/her/their* wherever *he/she/they* may be. Strengthen *him/her/them* when *he/she/they* stand(s); comfort *him/her/their* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him/her/their* up if *he/she/they* fall; and in *his/her/their* heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of *him/her/their* life/lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

52. For an Anniversary p 431

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

53. For Travelers p 831

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel [in particular _____]; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them into safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Transition Prayer

O Lord,

You are the light that illumines our path.

You are the map that gives us direction.

You are the peace that makes us strong.

You are the guide whom we faithfully follow.

May your light illuminate our entire lives.

And your guidance bring direction to our work.

May we find inspiration in your Word,

And peace in our hearts as we follow you. Amen.

The Offertory

You can contribute at our website www.stbenslososos.org at any time.

Descant

4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior
 2 He comes, the pris - oners to re - lease in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart pre -
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
 soul to cure; and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

arch - es ring with thy be - lov ed Name.

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

Music: *Richmond*, melody Thomas Haweis (1734-1820); adapt. Samuel Webbe, Jr. (1770-1843);
 harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906; desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

♪ Doxology:

[Hymn tune #400]

*[sung 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*

Holy Eucharist

Iona

Celebrant:

The table of bread and wine is now made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Celebrant: May Christ be with you,

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts,

All: We lift them up to God.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God,

All: It is right to give both thanks and praise.

Celebrant: We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ. Therefore, with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea and sky, we sing to you. With the angels of light who envelop us, with Michael and the host of heaven, with all the saints before and beside us, with Columba and Brigid, Patrick and Margaret, Blessed Mary and Blessed Benedict, with brothers and sisters, east and west, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet in this mystery are close to us, we join in the song of your unending greatness:

♪ Sanctus

G 297

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-
san-na, ho-san-na on high. Bless-ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-
san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na, ho-san-na on high.

Celebrant Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world's suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread. On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread and having blessed it he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, This is my body, given to you. In the same way he took wine and having given thanks for it he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood. Take this and share it. I shall drink wine with you next in the coming Kingdom of God.

All: *Loving God,
through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread,
So that we may know your touch in all bread, all matter.
We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his
community through the centuries, and shares with us now.
Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts
and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.*

Celebrant: Hear us, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine. May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing and making us whole. And as the bread and wine which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world.

All: *Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
all honor and glory are yours, All-Compassionate God,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. AMEN*

The Lord's Prayer

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

*Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.*

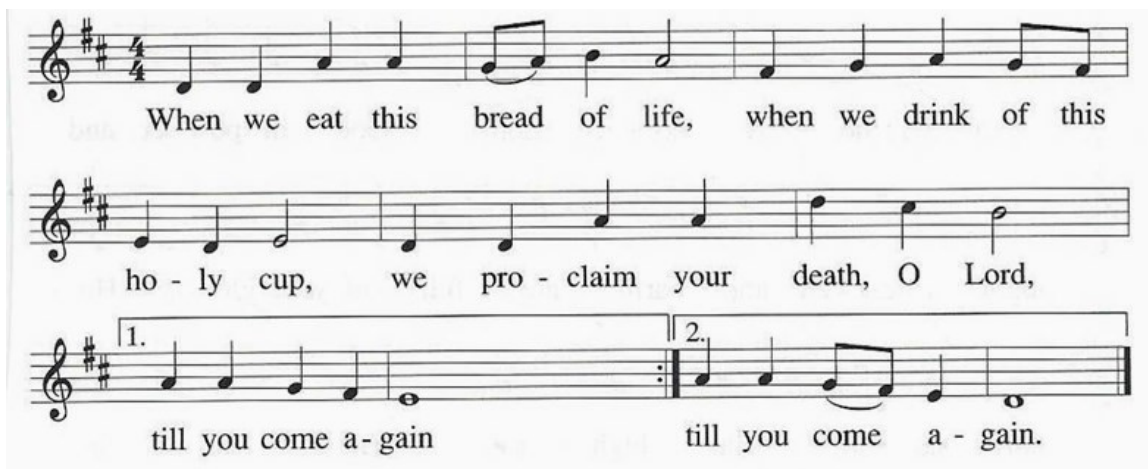
from A New Zealand Prayer Book

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the Bread

♪ Fraction Anthem

G 298



When we eat this bread of life, when we drink of this
ho - ly cup, we pro - claim your death, O Lord,
till you come a - gain till you come a - gain.

Holy Communion

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*If God is calling you, you are welcome and invited to receive communion.
Please contact the church office to arrange to receive communion in your home.*

♪ Communion Music

“Prelude and Fugue in b Flat Minor from Well Tempered Clavier Book 1 ”

J.S. Bach

© Kalmus Publishing, N.D.

♪ Hymn #60

Creator of the Stars of Night (v1,2,6)

Blue Hymnal

Silence

Prayer

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen

Blessing

Celebrant: May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path and the blessing of God Almighty. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. *Amen*

Announcements

♪ Hymn (repeat three times)

Wait for the Lord

G332



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Dismissal

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

All: *Thanks be to God.*

♪ Postlude

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Arr. Philip Keveren

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Ministers of the Service

Celebrant:	Rev. Jen Crompton
Preacher:	Rev. Jen Crompton
Eucharistic Minister:	Alan Kiste
Eucharistic Assistant:	Brian Spolarich
Lector:	John Horsley
Flowers:	Sharon Porter
Ushers:	Brian Spolarich & Sandy Fisher
Intercessor:	Sandy Fisher
Altar Guild:	Sarah Chesebro
Online Host:	Elaine Beckham
Tellers:	Bryson McKelvey & Alice Welchert
Technical:	Hannah-Jaye Matthews
Coffee Hour Host:	John Horsley & Steve Cake

This Week at St Ben's

Sunday	Dec 24
4:30p	Carols Around the Creche
7:45p	Carols followed by 8p Eucharist
Monday	Dec 25
10:00a	Christmas Day Eucharist
Sunday	Dec 31
10:30a	Eucharist Service

Announcements

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.

Personal Prayer: If you'd like prayer support during the week, contact Sandy Fisher (661) 805-2882. If no answer, please leave a message and your call will be returned. Prayer requests may also be emailed at any time to prayers@stbenslososos.org and requests for pastoral care may be sent to pastoralcare@stbenslososos.org.

Offering the Common Cup at Communion

In an effort to address the ongoing needs of our parish, including the continued assessment of the return to pre-COVID liturgical practices, we will resume offering you wine from the Common Cup (chalice) at the Eucharist. At the Eucharist, you will be offered wine from either the chalice or from an individual cup. If you choose to drink from the chalice, reach for it from the Eucharistic Minister. If you choose to drink from the individual cups, simply acknowledge the chalice with a nod of your head and take one of the small cups from the tray offered by the Eucharistic Assistant. As usual, cross your arms over your chest if you do not wish to receive any wine.

Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge with gratitude the yak tityu tityu yak tihini (ytt) / the Northern Chumash People, and the Salinan Tribe / the T'epot'aha'l, "People of the Oaks," on whose ancestral homelands we gather, and whose vibrant culture continues today. May we always remember that the Earth does not belong to us, that we belong to the Earth, and that we are all relatives in life. Help us to be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world.

Our Mission Statement

St. Benedict's is an inclusive Christian community that celebrates the divine in all beings, and inspires spiritual growth through joyful sacramental worship, loving service, creative expression, thoughtful inquiry, and commitment to social justice.

Our Inclusivity Statement

The people of St Benedict's are called to share God's love as we minister with and to all persons in Los Osos and beyond, providing worship, nurture, fellowship, and service.

Our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic condition, or physical or mental ability.

We embrace and seek to preserve the beautiful, amazing diversity of God's creation. We cooperate in ministry with other local churches and groups of God's people as we participate in the worldwide mission of Christ.



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