



St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

Los Osos, California

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023 4:30 pm

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

~ Prelude ~

The First Noel

Arr: David Hunsinger

♪ Hymn #83

O Come All Ye Faithful (verses 1-4)

Blue Hymnal

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God from God, Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten Son of the Father; [Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest; [Refrain]

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; [Refrain]

With procession to the crèche

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living God.

People: *Glory to God for ever and ever.*

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.*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
 The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
 While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
 O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
 And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
 So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
 No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: Christ be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

All: *God of unveiled truth, faithful flame in times of darkened sun and waning moon: lift up our unknowing hearts, and waken our sleeping love to announce the coming dawn of unexpected peace; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.*

Luke 2:1-14

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

People: *Glory to You, Lord Christ.*

About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to

travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census.

As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel. There were shepherds camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master.

This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises:

Glory to God in the heavenly heights,

Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ

People: *Praise to You, Lord Christ.*

Reflection

Rev. Jen Crompton

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 our prayers today, we put all thoughts and worries and hopes into the hands of God.

We place into the hands of God the life of this church, the people around us, and those who are not here today. We place into the hands of God our difficulties and frustrations, and our hopes and our worries about the future. We place into the hands of God the life of the church in all the world, all people in the world who bring God's love to others, all people who are in danger because they share the love of God. Loving God, as you have blessed us, make us a blessing to your world. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We place into the hands of God a world that needs peace, a world that needs wisdom, a world that needs healing. We place into the hands of God the leaders of every nation, the poor of our own and every land, those who live in fear, and all who hold the lives of others in their hands. Loving God, you have poured such love into your world. Show us how to help make it a more loving place. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We place into the hands of God our families, our friends, and our neighbors, those who live and work in our town, in our shops and local businesses, those who work from home, those who are unemployed, and all who pass through this town on their travels.

We place into the hands of God all those we know who are suffering. We name...

[People may offer prayers, either silently or in the chat.]

Loving God, bless them with your love and comfort and healing. and show us how to care for them. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We place into the hands of God all those who have died. Loving God, as you prepared a place for each of them, prepare us for our place with you, when we will be held in your loving hands for ever. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: *Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

The Peace

Celebrant: Sisters, brothers, and siblings, we are the body of Christ

People: *By one spirit we were baptized into one body.*

Celebrant: Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

People: *Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.*

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.

The Offertory

*You are invited to make a thank offering, but if you do not contribute financially today please give thanks for God's blessing as the plate is passed.
You can contribute at our website www.stbenslososos.org at any time.*

♪ Hymn #112

In the Bleak Midwinter

Blue Hymnal

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim throngèd the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give Him – give my heart.

Holy Eucharist

EOW1

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them to the Lord.*

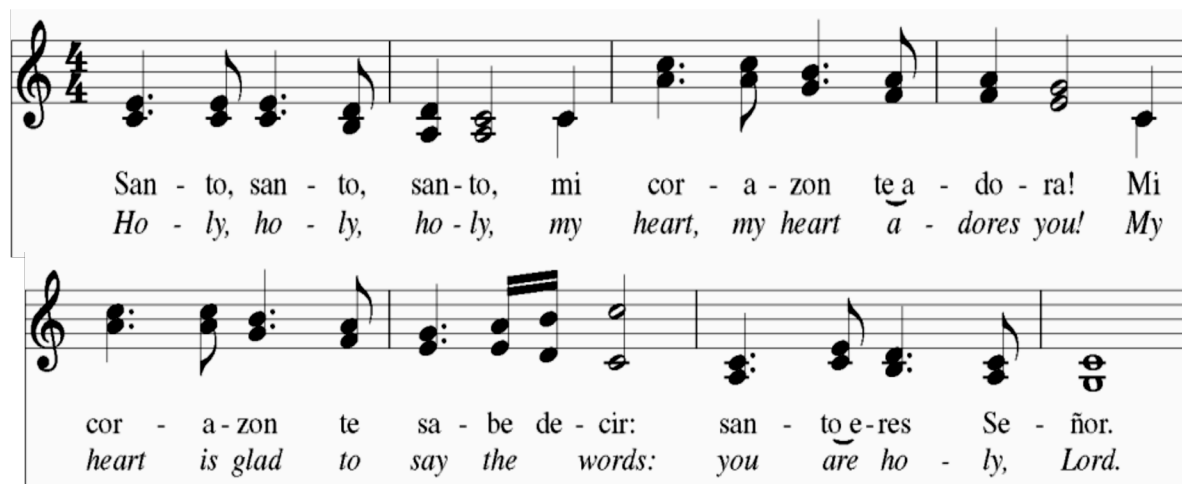
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Celebrant We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a parent cares for their children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus

WLP 785



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Se - ñor.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, 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. Again, he gave thanks to you, 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."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with Benedict all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

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

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

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the Bread

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People *We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.*

Holy Communion

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

♪ Communion Music

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

Michael Praetorius

Lo How a Rose ere Blooming

Arr. Alexander Schreiner

♪ Hymn #111

Silent Night, Holy Night

Blue Hymnal

Silent night, Holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon Virgin Mother and Child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night, shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, Holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: *Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen*

Blessing

Celebrant: May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

♪ Hymn #100

Joy to the World

Blue Hymnal

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! let us our songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal

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

All: *Thanks be to God.*

♪ Postlude

Rise Shepherds and Follow

Arr. Jack Schrader

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Ministers of the Service

Celebrant:	Rev. Jen Crompton
Preacher:	Rev. Jen Crompton
Flowers:	Sharon Porter
Altar Guild:	Sarah Chesebro
Technical:	Hannah-Jaye Matthews

This Week at St Ben's

Monday	Dec 25
10:30a	Quiet service followed by brunch
Sunday	Dec 31
8:00a	Contemplative Service
10:30a	Healing 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

Tuesday Morning Prayers & Spiritual Conversation: There will be no morning prayers or spiritual conversation this week. Both Morning Prayers and the Tuesday morning Spiritual conversation will resume September 12th. The Spiritual Conversation discussion will be based on ideas from Joan Chittister's [Awakenings: Prophetic Reflections](#). You do not have to read the book to participate. Tuesdays at 10:30 on [Zoom](#).

Personal Prayer: If you'd like prayer support during the week, contact [Lisa Gonzalez \(805-441-3386\)](#). 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.

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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