



St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ *Tending Mind and Soul* ~

Los Osos, California

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023 8:00 pm

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

Christmas Carols

Hymn 79 O Little Town of Bethlehem verses 1-3,5

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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

Hymn 87 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest Heav'n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

Ris'n with healing in His wings. Light and life to all He brings.
Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Hail the heav'nly Prince of Peace!
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hymn 109 **The First Noel** *verses 1-4*

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.

They lookèd up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star, three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.

Hymn 89 **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear** *verses 1-2*

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from Heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,
And ever over its Babel sounds the blessèd angels sing.

~ Prelude ~

Christ Is Born This Holy Night

Tunes: PICARDY; STILL, STILL, STILL; W ZLOBIE LEZY Arr: Lloyd Larson 2020 Lorenz Publishing Co.

♪ Hymn #93 **Angels from the Realms of Glory** Blue Hymnal

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with you is now residing; yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar:
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending in his temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

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.*

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: Christ be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

All: *Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night, draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host, that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds, that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, God for ever and ever. Amen.*

First reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

Epistle Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God*

♪ Hymn #102 Once in Royal David's City (verses 1,2, 4,6) Blue Hymnal

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

For he is our lifelong pattern, daily when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round,
we shall see him; but in heaven, where his saints his throne surround:
Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

Luke 2:1-20

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

People: *Glory to You, Lord Christ.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you

is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

Let us pray to Our Lord, saying: Lord Jesus, born of Mary, be born in us today.

Praise be to God in his great love for us. He has entered our darkness with his great light. He comes as our God and yet as a child. Lord help us and your whole church to walk as children of the light. Teach us to see your presence in each other: to be aware that what we do to each other we do to you. We give thanks for the word spoken by the prophets, but above all for the Word made flesh dwelling among us. May your whole church proclaim this Good News with joy. Lord Jesus, born of Mary, ***be born in us today.***

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace. We pray for lasting peace in the Middle East and for Bethlehem today. Lord, give peace in the hearts of all, peace in our land, peace among the nations: peace in our homes and peace in all our dealings; peace through him who is the Prince of Peace. Lord Jesus, born of Mary, ***be born in us today.***

Lord Jesus, born of Mary, you are part of the human family: you share our joys and our sorrows, our hopes and our fears. Bless our homes with your loving presence, let us know that you are with us, our families and our friends. Lord Jesus, born of Mary, ***be born in us today.***

Lord Jesus Christ, you came down to lift us up. You descended that we might ascend. You became human that we could share in the divine. We pray for all who are down at this time: we remember outcasts and refugees; those who are stateless and those without homes. We pray for the lonely and those who are unloved, for all who will find this a sad day or a hard day. We pray especially for friends and loved ones who are ill or in need of our prayers...

[prayers from the bidding book read here....Please share silently or in the chat]

Lord Jesus, born of Mary, ***be born in us today.***

We give thanks that you have opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. We pray for loved ones departed from us, that they may be one with you in your kin-dom.

Lord Jesus, born of Mary, ***be born in us today.***

*Blessing and honor and glory and power be to our God, for his love revealed in the Word made flesh;
Blessing and honor and glory and power be to our God, coming among us and sharing our humanity;
Blessing and honor and glory and power be to our God, filling Mary with the life of the Divine. Blessing and honor and glory and power be to our God, for our salvation, for bringing joy and peace into our world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

♪ **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.

♪ 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

EOW2

Celebrant May God 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

♪ Fraction Anthem

WLP 878



Who-ev - er comes to me shall not hun - ger and
who-ev - er be - lieves in me shall nev - er thirst.

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

The Snow Lay on the Ground

Tune: VENITE ADOREMUS Traditional English carol 2020 Lorenz Publishing Co.

“Suo Gân” (“Lullaby”)

Welsh Traditional

Alan Kiste, Soloist

Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

*All: We praise and thank you, creator God,
for you have not left us alone.
You have come among us as Emmanuel, the promised of ages,
and come to us still in word and Spirit, in bread and cup.
Make us holy, and live in our hearts
So that your Christ may be seen in us
And your love bring joy to the world
Through us. 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

“Joy to the World” with “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Tune: ANTIOCH attr. G.F. Handel, 1685-1759

Tune: GLORIA Traditional French carol

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Ministers of the Service

Celebrant:	Rev. Jen Crompton
Preacher:	Rev. Jen Crompton
Eucharistic Minister:	Brian Spolarich
Eucharistic Assistant:	Lisa Gonzalez
Flowers:	Sharon Porter
Ushers:	Sharon Porter & Jim Malone
Altar Guild:	Pat Stoneman
Technical:	Hannah-Jaye Matthews

This Week at St Ben's

Monday	Dec 25
10:00a	Quiet service followed by brunch

Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge with gratitude the yak tityu tityu yak tilhini (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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