



When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude Stacy Cullison

Welcome, Call to Worship & Opening Prayer Tom Haugen

Music of Preparation

Lighting of the Christ Candle

First Lesson Genesis 3:8-19

(Adam and Eve disobey God's command and disrupt the order and goodness of creation.)

***Hymn**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

(God promises that through Abraham, all the peoples of the earth will be blessed.)

Hymn

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a Child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Third Lesson

Responsive Reading - Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; 53:5-6

(The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah.)

Pastor: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

People: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Pastor: Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

People: He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

Pastor: But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

All: We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Hymn

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

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 men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
When the new heav'n and earth shall own the Prince of Peace their King,
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

Fourth Lesson

Micah 5:2-5

(The Messiah will come from lonely Bethlehem and shepherd his flock in strength and peace.)

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

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.

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

(An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.)

Hymn

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 the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

(Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child.)

Hymn

What Child is This?

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste! Haste! to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste! Haste! to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Seventh Lesson

Responsive Reading - Luke 2:8-16

(Angels appear to the shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah.)

Pastor: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

People: But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Pastor: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

People: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Pastor: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

All: So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Hymn

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;
remember Christ, our Savior was born on Christmas Day
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.

Refrain:

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name. [Refrain]

Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

(Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus.)

GIVING OURSELVES & OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

Prayer of Dedication for Our Tithes & Offerings

To give, there are baskets near the entrance, you can also mail or drop your tithes and offerings in the box outside the office doors. This year, the Christmas offering is given to IMPACT.

Hymn

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Chorus:

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold Him arise:
King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Earth to heav'n replies.

Chorus

Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-14

(The Word becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth.)

***Hymn**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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;

Chorus:

O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye bright hosts of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest. **(Chorus)**

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! **(Chorus)**

Sermon

"A Whole New Category of Love"

Tom Haugen

Matthew 1:18-25

The Lighting of the Candles

As we light each candle, we see a visible representation of the power of one person showing God's love and then the power of the entire body of Christ loving Jesus and loving others.

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Please rise and sing as the candlelight is passed.

***Hymns**

Silent Night

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!

O Holy Night

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

***Benediction**

Postlude

Joy to the World

We've been given the greatest gift in the history of the world. God came down and brought salvation, light and life through a baby named Jesus.

Merry Christmas from the El Montecito Presbyterian Church family!

A special thank you to our Readers:

4:00 PM

Ryan, Chase, Kenyon and Isla Throop. Barbara Kennedy, Lucy Moore, Kirk Gilbert, Leanne Patterson, Cor Patterson, Mary Slater and Rob Hale.

6:00 PM

Melia, Annie and Jocelyn Haugen. Errin Cecil-Smith, Nathan Gates, Bob Phinney, Nancy Phinney, James Barr, Janet Gates and Jim Watson.

Christmas Offering Recipient: I.M.P.A.C.T. (International Missions Partnerships & Cross-cultural Training.) IMPACT's Mission: is to form, train and send teams, prepared to serve Christ and his Church through cross-cultural mission journeys that nurture the ministries of global partners and train participants to be missionaries at home. IMPACT's Vision is to cultivate relationships that mutually impact Christians and ministries across the globe for Christ and his Kingdom.

Welcome to El Montecito Presbyterian Church

Welcome Visitors! We are so glad you chose to worship with us on Christmas Eve. Join us on **Sundays at 10:00 AM for Church in the Courtyard**. You can also connect with us on our website at: elmopres.org or on Instagram @elmopres or subscribe to our YouTube channel: El Montecito Presbyterian Church.

ELMO Pres Kids & Youth on Sundays

Sunday School for nursery age - grade 5 during the worship gathering. Please check-in at the courtyard entrance. No Sunday School December 26 or January 2. Childcare for 0-5 available January 2nd.

Middle School Youth Group is on the 1st and 3rd Friday Night of the month from 6:30-8:30 PM on the lower patio. Games, pizza, Bible study and fun! Bring a friend!

High School lunch & Bible Study the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month after worship from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Meet at the courtyard entrance. SBHS Young Life meets on the lower patio on Mondays from 7:30-9:00 PM.

Connecting & Serving

El Montecito Presbyterian Church Covenant Partner/New Member Class, January 12-30, 2022

Want to get connected? Join our church family? Learn about ECO? Where do you begin? Covenant Partner/Member Class is a four-week class beginning in January 2022! **Class times: Wednesdays, January 12, 19, 26 from 7-8 PM via Zoom and Sunday January 30 after worship for lunch with our Pastors and Elders.** Please email Maryann Spradley at admin@elmopres.org to sign up.

Women in the Word Bible Study, Mondays 9:30 to 11:15 AM in the Parish Hall

Study will resume on Monday, January 3rd. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Women's Bible Study: Thursdays 7:45 - 9:00 AM at IHOP

This study will resume on Thursday, January 6th. Please feel free to join us in the New Year.

Men's Bible Study: Thursdays, 9:00 AM in the Courtyard. Meeting on Dec. 30th.

You're invited to join us in a study of the Book of Hebrews. Please bring your Bible, coffee is provided.



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