

WORSHIP

Sunday, December 26, 2021

Church in the Courtyard

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. Galatians 4:4-5

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Stacy Cullison

Welcome to Our Life Together

Tom Haugen

Prayer of Invocation

Music of Preparation

GIVING PRAISE TO GOD

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 96:1-9

Leader: Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

People: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

Leader: For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

All: Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

***Hymn of Praise**

The First Noel

1. The first Noel, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where 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.

2. They looked 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.

3. 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.

4. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

Confession of Sin Unison

Heavenly Father, we confess that we have boasted in our own abilities rather than in the profound glory of the cross. Though Jesus was willing to suffer for us, we have spent a great deal of our energy avoiding inconvenience. We have not taken up our cross. Instead, we find ourselves discontented with our provisions in life, eager to complain and criticize, and selfish with sharing what we have been given with others. Though he was utterly obedient to the Father's will, we have spent a significant portion of our time being indifferent to his sacrifice rather than humbled. We need correction. We need peace. We need mercy. We need love. We need the marks of Jesus to rule our hearts, souls, minds and strength. We therefore ask for the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to be with our spirits. Come Holy Spirit and minister to our broken hearts. Amen.

Take a moment to silently confess your sins to God, knowing that he hears you.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons and daughters. And because you are sons and daughters, God has set the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba, Father!' So through God you are no longer a slave but a son and daughter, and if a son or daughter then an heir.

Pastor: In Christ, you are forgiven, adopted into God's family, an heir to the kingdom!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

GIVING OURSELVES & OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

To give, there are baskets near the entrance to the Courtyard, you can also mail or drop your tithes and offerings in the box outside the office doors or follow [this link to give online](#). Remember our tithes and offerings are a continued act of worship and a physical act of trusting all of our lives to Jesus as we join God in his work in our community and around the world.

Prayer of Dedication for Our Tithes & Offerings

Kirk Gilbert

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayers for the Church & the World

SHARING & SINGING

Sharing stories of God's faithfulness in 2021.

Sylvia Hamilton, Jeffrey Smith, Ryan & Brittany Warner

Between sharing, please be prepared to request your favorite Christmas Hymn.

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn of Response

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

Refrain

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
When, lo! Above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

3. Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

***Benediction**

Postlude

Welcome to El Montecito Presbyterian Church

Welcome Visitors! We are so glad you chose to worship with us today in the courtyard or online. Please fill out a Visitor Card or email us at admin@elmopres.org so we can get to know you better and send you our weekly email. 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.

Upcoming Sermon Series - James – Real Faith. Real Life. James gives us a vivid and practical look at real Christian faith and real life. Authored by the half-brother of Jesus, and the leader of the early Jerusalem Church, James provides rich insight on a great number of issues including persecution, relationships, finances, faith and works. In all of these things James gives us a renewed sense of the depth of our sinfulness and the sufficiency of Jesus. Join us over the next five weeks as we begin the new year discovering what it looks like to put real faith into action in real life as we grow in our love for God and one another.

ELMO Pres Kids & Youth!

Sunday School for nursery age - grade 5 during the worship gathering. Please check-in at the courtyard entrance. *No Sunday school* on December 26th and January 2nd. Nursery care available on January 2nd.

Middle School after worship from 11:00 to 11:30 AM, lower patio. MS Youth Group is on the 1st and 3rd Friday Night of the month from 6:30-8:30 PM on the lower patio. Games, snacks, Bible study and fun! Bring a friend!

High School lunch & Bible Study 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

Church Offices Closed: December 27th—31st.

The church office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Years. Open again on Monday, January 3rd, 2022. Happy New Year!

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? El Montecito Presbyterian Covenant Partner/Member Class is a four-week class beginning in January 2022! **Class times: Wednesday, 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: Thursday Dec. 30th, 9:00 AM in the Courtyard

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

Santa Barbara Mission Conference, January 28-29, 2022

Registration is open for the 20th annual Santa Barbara Mission Conference, "Called to Reconcile". Register by going online at sbmissionconference.org or by downloading the form from the website.

Connect with our Ministry Partners

Please continue sending notes of encouragement to our Ministry Partners:

Greg and Chris Callison: gregandchris@callison.net; James and Renata Bultema: jamesbultema@spccturkey.com, renatabultema@spccturkey.com, Dana and Karen Ostby: danaostby@gmail.com, karina@lite.email; Ryan and Brittany Warner: rwarnar@fca.org, bwarnar@fca.org and Alex Smith: alex.smith@e3partners.org.

Caring

Please take some time to pray specifically for the needs of the Church, local community, state, country and world. Direct Prayer Requests to prayers@elmopres.org.

Our Ministry Partners the Bultemas, Callisons, Ostbys, Warners with Santa Barbara Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Alex Smith and Mexico Mission Partners.

Bereavement for Sandy Aguirre and family after the loss of her mother Evelyn Nalley; Joyce Hutchinson and family after the loss of her son; Darlene, family and friends of Gordon Reisig; Judith, family and friends of Byron Ishkanian; Patricia, family and friends of Carl Perry.

Pamela Arneson, for peace and healing from multiple stays in the hospital.

Ann Marie King, for her unstable heart condition, recent visit to the ER and wisdom for the doctors help.

Gordon Smith, for healing from heart valve replacement surgery.

Linda Allan, for recovery from complications of surgery.

Mary Stillman for treatment of a rare form of cancer and wisdom for her doctors in Houston, TX.

Carol Gillis, for continued recovery from a fall.

Curtis Whiteman for continued recovery.

Ken Working, for his recent diagnosis of ALS and continued health issues with Miji and for the family.

God is with you! And, we're here for you in person, by phone or online.

Office hours, Monday—Thursday, 9 AM to 2 PM

Rev. Tom Haugen, Pastor

Rev. Lauri Haugen, Asst. Pastor to Families

Brad Catron, Facilities Manager

Meika McCrindle, Early School Interim Director

Dr. Matthew Roy, Music Director

Maryann Spradley, Office Administrator

Michele Sullivan, Accountant

The Entire Congregation, Ministers of the Gospel

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Elders

Tom Haugen, Moderator

Janet Gates, Clerk of Session

Shelley Fogg, Children's Ministries

Terry Foil, Early School

Nathan Gates, Outreach

Kirk Gilbert, Worship & Prayer

Susan Hughes, Congregational Life

Ginger Ketznel, Nominating

Finance & Property

Mary Slater, Human Resources

Jeffrey Smith, Youth Ministries

Deacons

Betty Delk, Co-Moderator

Jeff Delk, Co-Moderator

Sandy Aguirre, Friendship Visitation

Anita Allmon

Cathy Clemens, Holiday Gifts

Chase Enright, Greeters

Melissa Hillegas, Hospital Visitation

Pam Jepson, Care Notes

Paul Jepson

Nancy Johnke, Coffee Fellowship

Martha Kay, Chancel Flowers & Distribution

Barbara Kennedy, Secretary & Treasurer