

EL MONTECITO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

CANDLELIGHT LESSONS & CAROLS

4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. **John 1:14***

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Mary Beth Woodruff

Welcome, Call to Worship & Opening Prayer

Tom Haugen

Music of Preparation

Pastorale**

Lighting of the Christ Candle—Reading

***First Lesson—Responsive Reading**

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

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

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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.

** Please stand if you are able*

***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.

Second Lesson — Reading

Luke 1:26-38

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

Hymn

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!

Third Lesson — Reading

Matthew 1:18-23

(The angel of the Lord appears to Joseph and announces the birth of Jesus.)

** Please stand if you are able*

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, **Refrain:**
And ransom captive Israel, Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
That mourns in lonely exile here, Shall come to thee, O Israel!
Until the Son of God appear. [Refrain]

O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go. [Refrain]

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease,
Fill all the world with heaven's peace. [Refrain]

Fourth Lesson—Reading

Luke 2:1-7

(The birth of Christ.)

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—Responsive Reading**

Luke 2:8-16

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

Leader: 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.”

Leader: 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.”

Leader: 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**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

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 new-born King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born 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 new-born 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 new-born King.

Sixth Lesson— Reading

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 the Outreach Ministry Team's Emergency Fund.

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 — Reading

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;

Refrain:

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. **[Refrain]**

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! **[Refrain]**

Scripture

John 1:1-15

Sermon

"The True Light Who Shines in the Darkness"

Tom Haugen

The Lighting of the Candles

Lighting candles is a simple way of remembering the beauty and power of the true light who shines in the darkness.

As **John 1:5** says, the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Please pass the candlelight while we sing.

Hymn

Silent Night! Holy 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!

***Joy to the World!**

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 Earth, the Savior reigns
Let all their 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

***Benediction**

Postlude

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 Musicians & Readers:

Mary Beth Woodruff, Isaac Kay, Claire Woodruff—violins; Henry Woodruff—viola, Aidan Woodruff, Annie Haugen—celli; Pascal Solomon—Organ.

4:00 p.m. (in order of the readings)

Stengel Family, Terry Foil, Rick Fogg, Marshall Patterson, Barb Kennedy & Leanne Patterson.

6:00 p.m.

Barr Family, Nancy Phinney, Nathan Gates, Melia Haugen, Janet Gates & Brian Johnson.

Welcome to El Montecito Presbyterian Church

Welcome Visitors! We are glad you are worshiping with us. **Please fill out a Visitor Card** found at the entrance or email us at admin@elmopres.org so we can get to know you better and send you our weekly newsletter. You can also connect with us on our website at: elmopres.org, on Instagram @elmopres or subscribe to our YouTube channel: El Montecito Presbyterian Church. **Join us Christmas morning for a continental breakfast at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall followed by worship at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.**

ELMO Pres Kids & Youth

ELMO Pres Kids & Youth at 9:00 a.m. for nursery-8th grade. No ELMO Pres Kids program on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Children's Church for nursery-kindergarten age children (age 0-6) the nursery/preschool rooms will be available on Dec 24, 25 and Jan 1 for parents and children to use, but they will not be staffed. Live stream can be viewed on the TV in the preschool room. Elementary age children remain in worship. **Pick up a worship activity guide** on your way into worship!

Middle School (5th—8th) Friday Nights at ELMO Pres 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month from 6:30—8:30 p.m. Pizza! Games! Bible! Fun!

High School Bible Study: Friday mornings from 7:15—8:10 a.m. at Dune Coffee on Anacapa. Contact Lauri for more information.

Sign up for the ELMO Pres Family Newsletter for more information on events, discipleship and service opportunities for youth, children and families. Email: LauriHaugen@elmopres.org.

Prelude: 'What Child Is This', 'Coventry Carol' (16th Century English Carol), Corelli 'Fatto per la Notte di Natale', movements 1-5 (Christmas Concerto).

****Music of Preparation:** 'Pastorale', movement 6 from Corelli's 'Christmas Concerto'. In seventeenth-century Italy the pastorale became associated with Christmastime as a representation of the shepherds who attended Jesus' birth. Baroque composers imitated shepherd music with simple melodic upper parts, often in parallel thirds and sixths, over a drone similar to that of bagpipes. Corelli appears to have been the first to include a pastorale in a concerto and to have such a piece performed in church on Christmas Eve.



1455 East Valley Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93108
805.969.5041 Office | www.elmopres.org