

EL MONTECITO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

CANDLELIGHT LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 24, 2023 ~ 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

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

Santa Barbara Strings

Welcome, Call to Worship & Opening Prayer

Tom Haugen

Music of Preparation

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

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| 1. 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. | 2. 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. |
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Second Lesson— Reading

Luke 1:26-38

(An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear the son of God.)

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!*

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

*Raise, raise a song on high
The virgin sings her lullaby
Joy, joy for Christ is born
The babe, the Son of Mary*

*Nails, spears shall pierce Him through
The cross be born for me, for you
Hail, Hail, the Word made flesh
The babe, the Son of Mary*

Third Lesson— Reading

Matthew 1:18-23

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

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 Jesus.)

Hymn

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for His bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
Noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you;
Christ the babe was born for you.

***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 We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains:

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song? *[Refrain]*

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *[Refrain]*

Sixth Lesson—Reading

Matthew 2:1-11

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

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 Santa Barbara Rescue Mission.

Hymn

O Holy Night

1. 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!*
2. Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the Wise Men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our Friend.
*He knows our need— to our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!*
3. Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name.
*Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!*

Seventh Lesson — Reading

John 1:1-14

(The light shines in the darkness, 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 8:12

Sermon

"The Light of the World"

Tom Haugen

The Lighting of the Candles

Lighting our candles is a simple way of remembering the beauty and power of the Light of Life who shines in the darkness.

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 stand and sing as the candlelight from the Christ candle is passed.

***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! 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!

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!

***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.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

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

Santa Barbara Strings

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. We're glad you joined us tonight! We invite you to worship with us on Sundays at 10 a.m. Merry Christmas from the El Montecito Presbyterian Church family!

A special thank you to our Musicians & Readers:

SB Strings: Mary Beth Woodruff, Claire Woodruff, Henry Woodruff, Aidan Woodruff, Adelaide Smylie and Jane Smylie.

5:00 p.m.

The Barr Family, Leanne Patterson, Ryan Warner, Cor Patterson, Kirk Gilbert and Rick Fogg.

7:00 p.m.

Chris Ashford and Judy Cooper-Ashford, Mary Slater, Nathan Gates, Annie Haugen, Janet Gates and Nancy Phinney.

Welcome to El Montecito Presbyterian Church

Welcome Visitors! We are glad you are worshiping with us today. 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 newsletter. 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

Sunday Mornings with ELMO Pres Kids:

Nursery (age 0-2.5) & Preschool (age 2.5-5) from 9:50 a.m. until end of Worship in the Early School classrooms. Curriculum: The Beginner's Gospel Story Bible by Jared Kennedy.

K-6th Children begin in Worship and will be dismissed at 10:15 a.m. for ELMO Pres Kids. Pick up at 11:15 in the Creative Studios. Curriculum: The Biggest Story Curriculum by Crossway.

Youth: 6th—12th grade students meet together on the 1st and 3rd Friday night of the month from 6-8 p.m. Next up: January 5 & 19, 2024.

Sign up for the ELMO Pres Family Newsletter! Email: LauriHaugen@elmopres.org.

Office hours, Monday—Thursday, 9 AM to 2 PM 805-969-5041

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The Entire Congregation, Ministers of the Gospel

El Montecito Early School

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Elders

Tom Haugen, Moderator

Janet Gates, Clerk of Session

Erin Barr

Shelley Fogg

Terry Foil

Nathan Gates

Rob Hale

Barbara Mendelson

Mary Slater

Deacons

Melissa Hillegas and Darlene James,

Co-chairs & Congregational Care

Kersten Barr, Community Life

Judy Cooper-Ashford, Cards & Visitation

Chase Enright, Greeters

Brian Johnson, Receptions



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