

WORSHIP



December 24, 2023, **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light;
in him there is no darkness at all.*

1 John 1:5

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

ELMO Instrumentalists

Welcome to Our Life Together

Tom Haugen

Prayer of Invocation

Music of Preparation

GIVING PRAISE TO GOD

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 27

Leader: The LORD is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?

People: When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, they will stumble and fall.

Leader: One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD.

People: For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.

Leader: Teach me your way, O LORD, lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.

All: I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Love

Chase Enright, Ryan, Kenyon
and Isla Throop

** Please stand if you are able.*

***Hymn of Praise**

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;
sing, all ye citizens 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*]

Confession of Sin Unison

God of Light, we confess that we have gone astray and have left your light. We follow the dim lights of the world of success and fortune. We follow the fading light of personal salvation. We linger in the darkness of pride and self-reliance. Forgive us for deceiving ourselves and not seeking the true Light of your love for all the world. Help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

Take a moment to confess your sins to God, knowing that he hears and forgives.

Assurance of Forgiveness

1 John 2:1-2

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Leader: Hear and believe the good news of the gospel!

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

GIVING OURSELVES & OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

In addition to giving through the passed offering plates, you are also welcome to give online at our website or scan the QR code on the back cover. 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

Offertory

*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.

Children in grades K-6 are dismissed for ELMO Pres kids downstairs in the Creative Studios.

Prayers for the Church and the World

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

*Hymn of Preparation

Lo, How as Rose E're Blooming

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming As men of old have sung. It came, a flower bright, Amid the cold of winter When half-gone was the night. | 3. This Flower, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air, Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness everywhere. True man, yet very God, From sin and death He saves us And lightens every load |
| 2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The Rose I have in mind: With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright She bore to men a Savior When half-gone was the night. | |

Scripture

John 1:5-2:2

Sermon

God is Light

Tom Haugen

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

***Hymn of Response**

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.

Refrain:

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. [*Refrain*]
3. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood Mankind hath bought. [*Refrain*]

***Benediction**

Postlude

A special thank you to our ELMO instrumentalists:

Andy Patterson—Trombone, Cornelius Patterson—Trumpet, Marshall Patterson—
Saxophone, Kathryn Spradley—Saxophone and Peter West—Trumpet.



Sermon Notes:

Welcome to El Montecito Presbyterian Church

Welcome Visitors! We are glad you are worshipping 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.

Caring

Please take some time to pray specifically for the needs of the Church, local community, state, country and world. Email your prayer requests to prayers@elmopres.org.

Our Ministry Partners the Bultemas, Callisons, Ostbys, Warners, Vivancos. Mayu Luz Gullien Villanueva, Everetts at Rancho Sordo Mundo and Pastor Noe Perez Gomez at Iglesia Cristo es el Camino, SB Rescue Mission, Transition House and Network Medical Women's Center of SB.

Morgan Hale US Navy, Miles Hale US Army, sons of Rob and Christine Hale, James Wentzel, US Air Force, son of Bob and Nancy Phinney. Jack Burrows US Army, grandson of Sydney and Peter Tredick.

Bereavement for the friends and family of Carol Luce.

Anne Denig, who is ill and in the hospital.

Jim Worthen, for recovery from surgery.

Imre Patterson, for recovery from surgery.

Halleine Morrison, for continued recovery.

Donna Medwid, for continued recovery.

Ann Marie King, for her unstable heart condition and wisdom from her doctors.

Curtis Whiteman for continued healing.

Bring peace to Israel and Gaza

Connecting & Serving

Christmas Eve at ELMO! Today at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Celebrate our Savior's birth! Join us for a Candlelight Christmas Eve at 5 or 7 p.m. Childcare for ages 0-5 at 5:00 p.m. only.

Church Offices Closed, Monday December 25, 2023 through Tuesday, January 2, 2024

The church office will be closed for the week between Christmas and New Years. It will reopen on Wednesday, January 3 at 9:00 a.m. Morning worship, December 31 at 10:00 a.m. Happy New Year!

Women in the Word, Mondays at 9:30 a.m. Not meeting December 25 or January 1

Join us Mondays in the Fellowship Hall for "Celebrating Life in the Kingdom" an in-depth study of the book of Matthew and an overview by Patty Wilson.

Women's Bible Study, Thursdays 7:45 - 9:00 a.m. at IHOP - Not meeting December 28

Currently doing a study on Worship - What do we mean and what does it include?

Men's Bible Study, Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Library - Meeting on December 28

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

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; and Ryan and Brittany Warner: rwarner@fca.org,

bwarner@fca.org, United World Mission, Mexico, Mayu Guillen Villanueva:

mayuguivi@gmail.com and Manuel & Laura Vivanco: laura.vivanco@uwm.org, Rancho Sordo

Mundo, Ed Everett: ranchsordomudo@hotmail.com Luke Everett: sanlucasrsm@gmail.com.

Acts 1:8 Connection: Santa Barbara Rescue Mission

- God will bring the right people to staff open positions in our programs and homeless guest services.
- There will be peace and safety for everyone in our facility.
- God will provide new opportunities for the clients in our Transitional Shelter Program to move forward and for permanent housing.
- God's blessing on year-end giving.

Thank you and everyone at ELMO for remaining prayerful for the Rescue Mission.

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

Rev. Dr. Tom Haugen, Pastor

Rev. Lauri Haugen, Asst. Pastor to Families

Brad Catron, Facilities Manager

Mary Hurt, Worship Director

Maryann Spradley, Office Administrator

Michele Sullivan, Accountant

The Entire Congregation, Ministers of the Gospel

El Montecito Early School

Christine Hale, Early School Director

tomhaugen@elmopres.org

laurihaugen@elmopres.org

bradcatron@elmopres.org

maryhurt@elmopres.org

admin@elmopres.org

accounting@elmopres.org

805-969-3566

christine@elmopres.org

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

If you would like to connect with one of the following, please email them at:

Elders: elders@elmopres.org,

Deacons: deacons@elmopres.org

Facilities: facilities@elmopres.org



1455 East Valley Rd., Montecito

Mailing: P.O. Box 5369,
Santa Barbara, CA 93150

www.elmopres.org

