

# WORSHIP



December 31, 2023

*But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.*

**Galatians 4:4-5**

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## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Mary Hurt

Welcome to Our Life Together

Tom Haugen

Prayer of Invocation

Music of Preparation

## GIVING PRAISE TO GOD

**\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 130

Leader: Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD.

**People: Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.**

Leader: If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

**People: But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.**

Leader: I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

**All: My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. O Israel, put your hope in the LORD. for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins**

*\* Please stand if you are able.*

## \*Hymn of Praise

## *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

1. 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 th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
2. 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 with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel. [*Refrain*]
- Refrain:*  
*Hark! the herald angels sing,*  
*"Glory to the newborn King"*
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth. [*Refrain*]

## **Confession of Sin** Unison

**Lord Jesus, if you had not limited all your majestic greatness into the cramped quarters of the human nature, we could not know now the limitless power and privilege of being your children! If you had not come to die, we could never have received eternal life. If you had not been torn, we could never have been mended. Now forgive us for not loving others as you loved us. Forgive us for not quieting the fears of our hearts with the knowledge of how you loved us. Now let us adore you for the gift of your Son, for he is our hope and our health and our life. Amen.**

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

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Colossians 1:13-14

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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

Jeff Delk

### 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.

### Prayers for the Church and the World

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

#### \*Hymn of Preparation

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded,  
For, with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
our full homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood.  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heav'nly food.
3. Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day,  
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish  
As the darkness clears away.
4. At His feet the six-winged seraph,  
Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the Presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry,  
"Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

**Scripture**

Luke 2:25-35

**Sermon**

*Truth in the Cracks*

Ben Patterson

## GOING IN GOD'S NAME

### **\*Hymn of Response**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.
4. 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!

### **\*Benediction**

### **Postlude**



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](mailto: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](http://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.

**Starts back up January 7:** K-6th Children for ELMO Pres Kids. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

Jim George, for wisdom for his doctors and restored health.

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 recovery from a fall which resulted in hip surgery.

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

### **Church Offices Closed, through Tuesday, January 2, 2024**

The church office will reopen on Wednesday, January 3 at 9:00 a.m. Happy New Year!

### **Women in the Word, Mondays at 9:30 a.m. Not meeting January 1, will resume January 8**

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 on State Street**

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**

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: Dana and Karen Ostby**

- Please pray for a wonderful, worshipful, restful time with Dana's two daughters, Karis and Alisha and their husbands, Guthrie and Luke, coming to Indonesia for the first three weeks of January.

**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*

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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*

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

**Elders:** [elders@elmopres.org](mailto:elders@elmopres.org),

**Deacons:** [deacons@elmopres.org](mailto:deacons@elmopres.org)

**Facilities:** [facilities@elmopres.org](mailto:facilities@elmopres.org)



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