



Welcome to
St. Michael's University Church

An inclusive and caring community
in the heart of Isla Vista

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

CHRISTMAS EVE



PRELUDE

RINGING OF BELL

LIGHTING OF 4TH ADVENT CANDLE (PURPLE)

Please stand if you are able.

God is with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

(The celebrant says the collect, to which the people respond **Amen.**)

WELCOME



Whoever you are, whatever
your story,
wherever you are on your
journey,
you are welcome here.

SONG: 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 heaven above
Glory to God, glory in the highest
REFRAIN*

Please sit for the Reading and Psalm.

READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God

stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God**

CANTICLE (let us read in unison)

THE SONG OF MARY *MAGNIFICAT*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for God has looked with favor on God's lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is God's
Name.

God has mercy on those who are in awe of God
in every generation.

God has shown the strength of God's arm,
God has scattered the proud in their conceit.
God has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
God has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich God has sent away empty.
God has come to the help of God's servant Israel,
for God has remembered God's promise of mercy,
The promise God made to our fathers and mothers,
to Abraham and Sarah and their children forever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. *Amen.*

Please stand if you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL HYMN: “Wait for the Lord”

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart! (X2)

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be

called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

GOSPEL HYMN “Wait for the Lord”

SERMON: Rev Toni Stuart

SETTING UP THE CRÈCHE



Artwork by Allan Rohan Crite, ©1968

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 wondering
love
O morning stars together
proclaim the Holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
and Peace to men on earth*

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

*Hark! The herald angels sing
glory to the newborn king!
Peace on earth & mercy mild,
God & sinners reconciled!*

*Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn king!*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the ever-lasting Lord
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail incarnate deity
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn king.*

SILENT 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 Saviour, is born
Christ, the Saviour, 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*

Please stand if you are able.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE



With wonder and compassion, we turn our hearts to God in prayer.

For all displaced people, victims of poverty, wars, and violence, for an end to all forms of oppression, suffering and discrimination, we pray.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For the expansive beauty of your creation and our renewed care for this planet, for the defenders of sacred lands and territories, we pray.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For leaders and nurturers, decision-makers, and those with influence, that they may lead, and guide with integrity, justice, and compassion.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For healthy bodies, minds, and spirits, for calm when anxious, and quiet when fearful.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For all of us on our different paths, from different faiths, yet united by a common Source of Love.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For the hopes and intentions of this community.

For our healing presence here and beyond.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For what and for whom else would we like to pray today?(Pause)

For all of these prayers and the silent prayers in our hearts, we pray.

God of Love, hear the prayers of your people.

Amen.

PRAYER COLLECT

INVITATION (*the Deacon or Celebrant says*)

God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs even before they reach our lips. All that we are, have been, and will be is known to God. Still, we engage in confession, acknowledging to God all that rests uneasily in our hearts. Confident of God's love, let us make our confession now, first in silent prayer.

Silence

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (let us pray together):

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives—that which is beautiful and that which is hurtful and hateful.

We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.

We love with condition.

We destroy your creation.

We judge and condemn.

We cast the first stone and keep the log in our own eye.

We do not always turn to you as the source of our healing.

We believe you have the power to turn us around to a more abundant way of life, so we ask that you do that. We ask that you give us the energy, empathy, patience, and imagination to be your people in all we say and do.

Amen

THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY: *Offerings are collected and all who are able stand, sing:*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to God.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant : It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Loving God. By water and the Holy

Spirit, you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with every nameless and unremembered child of God, and with all the company of heaven, singing:

Celebrant and People sing "Santo, Santo, Santo"

Santo, santo, santo

Mi corazón te adora

Mi corazón te sabe decir:

"Santo eres, Señor"

Holy and gracious God: You made us in your infinite love, and when we turned away from that love, you sent Jesus Christ to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, and to draw us near to you.

On the night he was given over to suffering and death, Jesus took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues:

Recalling now Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection, we gather at this table with bread and wine in celebration of life and love, work, play and rest, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and Her presence in our lives. Send your Spirit upon these gifts. Let them be for us the Body and Blood of Christ. And grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may be filled with your life and goodness. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ:

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. AMEN.

And now, as Christ has taught us, we pray:

**Our God, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name
Thy kindom come, thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kindom, and the power, and the glory
For ever and ever.
Amen**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

<i>Celebrant</i>	Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People	Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!
<i>Celebrant</i>	The Gifts of God for the People of God. Everyone is welcome at God's table.

Holy Eucharist

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation. **Amen.**

"Everyone is welcome at God's table. Please join us in a circle on the other side of the altar. Our bread is gluten free. For bread only and not the wine, please raise your left hand. For a blessing rather than communion, place your arms across your chest. "

SILENCE

[God's first language is Silence. Everything else is a translation. – Thomas Keating]

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand if you are able.

<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us pray.
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**Eternal God,
you have graciously accepted us
as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

SONG: 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 world! The Savior reigns
Let us our songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

You rule the world with truth and grace
And make the nations prove
The glories of your righteousness
And wonders of your love
And wonders of your love
And wonders, wonders of your love

SENDING

Go in peace to love and serve God and all God's people. Alleluia!
Alleluia!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

A Prayer for the Christmas season

Child of Mary's womb,
apple of Joseph's eye,
welcome us when we come to you:
to visit, to pray,
simply to draw near.

Set our gaze on only that star
whose light leads us
along the path of your truth.

Teach us to make of our hearts
the finest gift we have to offer
to you and to others.



When we wonder if we have found you—
or lost you—
deepen our faith
in your faithful pursuit of us,
our lives, and our love.

Appear, shine, and reveal
the beauty of your face to us,
that we might never fail to see you
in all we meet and know.

Guide us, Lord Jesus,
by your perfect light. Amen.

***This prayer is a selection from Good Morning, Good God!
by Fr. Austin Fleming***



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