



Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 4, 2022

10:15 AM

Also Live Streaming at

<https://www.facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>

PRELUDE

"Prepare the Way, O Zion

arr. Pretzer

(People stand)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Savior of the Nations, Come!"

Bulletin Page 16

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed are you, Holy and living One.
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The image shows a musical score for a Kyrie. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/2. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy.' and 'Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with long notes and rests.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11.1-10

Lector A Reading from Isaiah

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
 and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
 The wolf shall live with the lamb,
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
 the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
 and a little child shall lead them.
 The cow and the bear shall graze,
 their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the
 ox.
 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
 They will not hurt or destroy
 on all my holy mountain;
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
 as the waters cover the sea.
 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire
 of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72.1-7, 18-19

Give the King your justice, O God, *
 and your righteousness to the King's Son;
 That he may rule your people righteously *
 and the poor with justice;
 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
 and the little hills bring righteousness.
 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
 he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
 from one generation to another.
 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
 like showers that water the earth.
 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
 there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
 who alone does wondrous deeds!
 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
 and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
 Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING

Romans 15.4-13

Lector A Reading from the Letter to the Romans

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

(people stand)

SEQUENCE HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

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(Congregation sings v. 3, the Gospel is read, then v. 4 is sung)

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3.1-12

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

(People are seated)

SERMON

The Rev. Michael K. Fincher

(Silence)

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, ✠
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Friends, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. Let us come before the Lord praying, "Blessed are you, Lord God; May the earth be filled with your glory."

Grant your Church, O God of encouragement, to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that we may glorify you with one voice. Make us a people of repentance and bless us with your Holy Spirit and fire.

Blessed are you, Lord God;

May the earth be filled with your glory.

Grant this nation, O God of justice, the will to defend the needy and the poor. May we sincerely hope for that day when hurt and destruction are no more.

Blessed are you, Lord God;

May the earth be filled with your glory.

Grant your creation, O God of faithfulness, the hope of renewal. May we who are stewards of this earth, also live at peace with all you have created.

Blessed are you, Lord God;

May the earth be filled with your glory.

Grant this city, O God of understanding, prosperity. May all the people know and do justice. We ask that you teach us and our leaders the best ways to meet the needs of all our neighbors.

Blessed are you, Lord God;

May the earth be filled with your glory.

Grant all the needy, O God of steadfast love, your mercy. Prove yourself to be a God of righteousness and faithfulness. To all their pain and suffering bring your healing and peace. And with your winnowing fork clear from their lives all the forces of oppression. We pray especially for those we mention now, silently, aloud, or in the comment section.

(Pause)

Blessed are you, Lord God;

May the earth be filled with your glory.

Grant to those who have died, O God of hope, eternal life in you. Bring the departed into your glorious dwelling where all their hope will be fulfilled in your Christ. We pray especially for those we mention now, silently, aloud, or in the comment section.

(Pause)

Blessed are you, Lord God;

May the earth be filled with your glory.

Presider You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation at the promise of your coming, that in each day and hour we may love and serve you and one another, in the name of your Son, the One who is to come. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Presider Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

God of all time,
we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us.
We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace.
In your mercy forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure
until Christ comes again in glory.
Amen.

Presider Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In ✠ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL BLESSINGS

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer: Watch over your *children*, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain"

Carolyn Jennings

PRESENTATION HYMN/DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

Praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711
Tune: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561

OLD HUNDREDTH
LM

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.

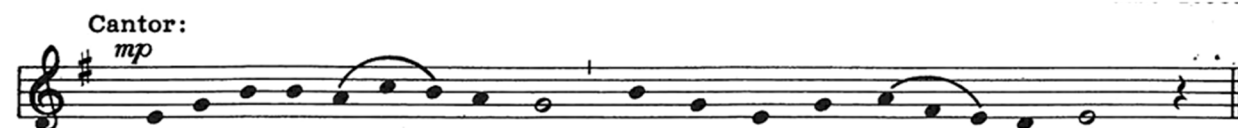
Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God___ of might.



Heav - en and earth___ are full___ of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.



Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he___ who comes in the___ name___ of___ the___ Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
 be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
 dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
 as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
 us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
 from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
 and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

(A period of silence is kept after the Celebrant breaks the host)

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

FRACTION ANTHEM



1. Je-sus, wis-dom and might - y Lord: }
 2. Je-sus, true branch of Jes - se's tree: } you
 3. Key of Da-vid and Day-spring from on high: }
 4. De-sire of na-tions, our Em-man-u-el: }

1. 2. 3. All:
 take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.

4. dim. All: rall.
 world, grant us— peace,— grant us— peace.

The Presider says the following or a similar invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at this Altar. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Holy Communion will be distributed from a single Communion Station at the foot of the chancel steps. The Ushers will release people by row to receive Communion.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Those who are participating in the live streamed service and therefore not able to receive communion may wish to say the following prayer in recognition that the desire to receive communion carries the same spiritual benefits of actually consuming the consecrated elements.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: "This is my body; this is my blood — given for you." Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Jesus, Name Above All Names"

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POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ in our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ADVENT SEASONAL BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Hark! The Glad Sound!"

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THE DISMISSAL

Presider Go in peace to prepare the way of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"Sleeper Wake"

J. S. Bach

*If you choose to leave during the Postlude, please do so quietly,
out of respect for the Organist and out of courtesy for those staying to listen.*

FLOWERS TODAY ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

**Please join us in Francis Hall for refreshments and fellowship
following the worship service**

(Francis Hall is out the main church doors and to the left)

Texts of Sunday sermons are available on our parish website, at
<http://stgregorychurch.com/sermons-archive/>

To make secure, online donations to St. Gregory's, simply scan:



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PROCESSIONAL HYMN

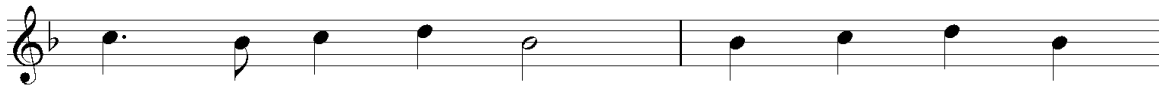
Hymnal 1982, Hymn 54

"Savior of the Nations, Come!"

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 56

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

(Congregation sings v. 3, the Gospel is read, then v. 4 is sung)



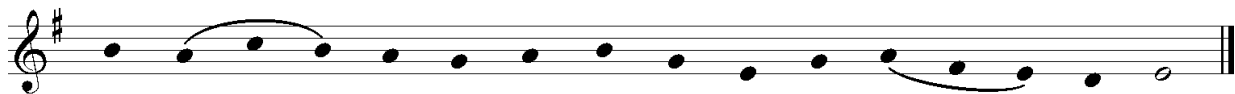
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

COMMUNION HYMN

"Jesus, Name Above All Names"

Naida Hearn



Je - sus, name a - bove all names; beau - ti - ful
Je - sus, lov - ing Shep - herd, Vine of the
Je - sus, Way of sal - va - tion, King of



Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord. _____ Em -
bran - ches, Son _____ of God. _____
kings, _____ Lord _____ of lords, _____ The



man - u - el, God is with us; bless - ed Re -
Prince of Peace, Won - der - ful Coun - se - lor, Lord of the
Way, The Truth and The Life, _____ Migh - ty Cre -



deem - er, Liv - ing Word. _____
u - ni - verse, My Light of the world. _____
a - tor, Sav - ior and Friend _____

RECESSIONAL HYMN
Hymnal 1982, Hymn 72

"Hark! The Glad Sound!"

Richmond

Descant

4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior
 2 He comes, the pri - songers to re - lease in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart pre -
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
 soul to cure; and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

THIS WEEK AT ST. GREGORY'S

Tuesday, December 6

Centering Prayer at **6:30 PM** via Zoom. Contact Fr. Michael for access information.

Thursday, December 8

Holy Eucharist and Healing Service at **10:00 AM** in the Chapel.

Bible Study at **11:00 AM** in the Fireside Room. You may also access via Zoom. Contact Fr. Michael for access information.

Daily Offices (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday)

Daily Morning Prayer: Tuesday through Thursday at **9:00 AM** on the St. Thomas Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/Saint-Thomas-of-Canterbury-Episcopal-Church-of-Long-Beach-CA-124554214274325/>).

Daily Evening Prayer: Tuesday through Thursday at **5:00 PM** on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>).

For the Daily Offices, you will need either a Book of Common Prayer or you can download the Morning and Evening Prayer liturgies and the Psalms for the week from the St. Gregory's website (www.stgregoryschurch.com).

CHRISTMASTIDE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24 – Choral Christmas Eve Service with Holy Eucharist at 7:00 PM.

Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25 – Holy Eucharist at 10:15 AM.

First Sunday after Christmas – Sunday, January 1 – Christmas Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist at 10:15 AM.

All Christmastide services will also be live streamed on the parish Facebook page.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Daily Devotional: Many people like to use special daily devotional materials during this holy season. As we have done in the past, we are making available the *Living Well Through Advent 2022* booklet, which has reflections for each day of Advent. You can pick-up a copy from the information table in the Parish Hall or from the Parish Office.

It's St. Nicholas Day at the Boutique! Come by and see our latest addition of St. Nicholas items to celebrate St. Nicholas Day on Dec. 6. A touch of Christmas Red has been added to our Advent Blue collection for the season: Jewelry, Santa Table Tops, and Red Decorations. Also don't miss the close-out sale on St. Gregory's Ornaments. "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!" Blessings from the Boutique Staff.

Christmas Flower Donations: Christmas is just around the corner! If you would like to make a donation to help offset the cost of the wreaths and poinsettias, you can do so by using the Christmas Flowers envelope in the pew backs (just fill it out and put it in the offering plate). You can also send a check to the church with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo line. Or you can go through the parish website or the Vanco app and use the Other Designated Gift category (just be sure to put Christmas Flowers in the adjacent box). And if you would like to make your donation in Memory of, in Thanksgiving of, or in Honor of someone, you can call the parish office or send an email to Kevin at info@stgregoryschurch.com with the appropriate information. **We need dedications no later than Tuesday, December 20th to get information into the Christmas Eve bulletin.** Poinsettias will be available for pick-up after Christmas. More on that down the road.

Music @ Four returns to St. Gregory's: Mark your calendars for NEXT Sunday, December 11th at 4:00 PM. The Sanctuary Choir and friends will present a program of "Joyful Christmas Songs." You won't want to miss this long-awaited event as a part of your holiday celebrations. An offering will be taken for Friends of Music and a reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Episcopal Visitation and Christmas Luncheon: On Sunday, December 18th, we will be blessed with an official visit by the Right Reverend John Harvey Taylor, our Bishop Diocesan. Following the worship service, we will have a festive Christmas luncheon (in lieu of our usual Christmas dinner). If you plan on attending the luncheon, please make reservations at the table outside the narthex on Sunday or by notifying the Parish Office (email info@stgregoryschurch.com or call 562-420-1311).

Nursery Attendant: St. Gregory's is looking for a Nursery Attendant for Sunday Services 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, paying \$15/hour. We are looking for someone to provide dependable, safe, secure and nurturing care to children ages 0 through 4 years old in a clean environment. Please contact Dana Lindsay or Tamera Benedict if you or someone you know would be interested!

Memorial Children's Hospital Birthday Party: Children who find themselves in the hospital on their birthday are really brightened and grateful when the Auxiliary team gives them a birthday party with a gift. A few of our parishioners are members of the Auxiliary and are asking for

donations of new unwrapped gifts for all ages. We will be collecting on the 2nd Sunday of each month. See Shirley DeMent if you have any questions.

Feed My Lambs and Food Bank: Here's the latest news on our parish feeding programs.

- **Feed My Lambs** has the following needs:
 - **Hardboiled Eggs** – We need 100 hardboiled eggs each month. Hardboiled eggs can be dropped off at the Parish Office on two occasions: Wednesday, January 4 from 10am to 12pm or on Friday, January 6 from 12 noon to 3pm. If these times do not work, contact Tamera and she will arrange a convenient time to meet you at the church.
 - **Homemade Cookies** – Any homemade cookies can be brought to church on Wednesday, January 4 from 10am to 12pm or on Thursday, January 5 at 11am so they can be sorted and bagged. If these times do not work, contact Tamera and she will arrange a convenient time to meet you at the church.
 - **Our Guests always need white athletic socks and belts!**
 - **Plastic Sacks Needed** – We have transitioned from paper sacks to plastic grocery bags. We would appreciate your donation of plastic grocery bags. You can put them in the Feed My Lamb cart on Sundays or bring them to the Parish Office.
 - **Volunteers** – We have plenty of volunteers! Thanks for all your support!!!

If you have questions about helping out with Feed My Lambs, contact Tamera Benedict at (tlbenedict4@gmail.com, 562.301.6800).

- **Food Bank** has the following needs:
 - **Volunteers** – We need volunteers to assist with the Food Bank distribution on the THIRD Wednesday of the month between 9:00 and 11:00 AM.
Please contact Kevin at the Parish Office (info@stgregoryschurch.com, 562.420.1311) for more information about the Food Bank.

Your continued support of our feeding ministries, through product and monetary contributions, is greatly appreciated!

Gratitude for Your Support of the Parish: We continue to be humbled and so incredibly grateful for your generosity in supporting our parish and its ministries! While you may not be able to drop your donation in a real offering plate, there are still ways you can make sure your donation gets to the parish:

- You can mail your check to the parish office.
- Make donations through our online payment account, accessible through the parish website at <http://stgregoryschurch.com/4721-2/>.
- Scan the QR code found in the Sunday bulletin.

And again, THANK YOU for your continued support!

Parish Directory: Our online parish directory is at <https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/>. This is a secure site and can be accessed using the email address you had published in the parish directory. You can also download the "Instant Church Directory" on your smart phone. Versions are available for Android, iPhone, iPad, and Kindle.

One Body & One Spirit Annual Appeal: The Diocese has established an ongoing campaign focused on raising funds to assist congregations, schools, affiliated institutions, and their

communities who are faced with unprecedented challenges. We are invited to prayerfully consider making a donation to help others in our Diocese who may have unmet needs. More information is available at <https://diocesela.org/annual-appeal/>.

Forward Day By Day: For those who use the Forward Day By Day booklet for personal devotions, contact Kevin at 562-420-1311 or info@stgregoryschurch.com.

In Case of Emergency . . . Notify Your Priest! With our combined ministry program with St. Thomas of Canterbury comes additional coverage for pastoral emergencies. In the event of a hospital stay, illness, death in the family, or other pastoral emergency, please call Father Michael on his cell phone (909-373-6478) any day except Monday, his Sabbath day. Mother Sharon (562-833-3393) covers emergencies in both communities on Monday, just as Father Michael covers emergencies in both parishes on Friday, Mother Sharon's Sabbath. And PLEASE, no excuses about not wanting to bother me. That's why we are here – for YOU!

PRAYER LIST

Lydia Gibbs, Suzan Laverty, Martin Nemitz, Ferdinand Gonzalez, Patrick McDonough, Molly Dawes, Mike Laverty, Michael S., Kim White, Ruth McClune, Robert Huff, Bob Gergen, Grace Stinson, Barbara Smuck, Mother Beryl, Kathryn Courtney, Eric Graham, Walt Gupton, Linda Elliott, Scott Morgan, Barbara Graham, Helen Cleveland, Fran Luebben-Morgan, Sandy McCormack, Rosy Ixco, Harold Peacock, Ruth McDonald-Boyd, Bruce Graham, Heather Simundson, Jane Alt, Rudy Revell, Alexander Comiskey, Jared Baker, Gayle Reidy, Loretta Scott, Anne Gergen, Marguerite Fincher, Kimberly Bouzguenda, Richard Alt, Miyako, Bill & Mamie, Shannon Romano, John Sprague, Nathan Southwick, Ralph Tesla, Cecilia Boling, Leroy Story, Natacha Worley, Dana Petterson, Katie Petterson, Danny Kimball, and Betty Lang

Note: Unless we are aware of on-going concerns, names only stay on the Parish Prayer List for a month. If names need to be re-added, please notify the Parish Office.



ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6201 E. WILLOW STREET, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90815
562-420-1311 WWW.STGREGORYSCHURCH.COM

WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!

St. Gregory's is a warm and caring community of families and singles, young and old, committed to sharing the good news that Jesus is the Lord of all life. We are an Episcopal Church, having members from all backgrounds and religious traditions, many of us had no church involvement before coming here. We want to offer to you the same welcome and friendship that were extended to us when we came to St. Gregory's.

ST. GREGORY'S MISSION STATEMENT

God has called us into Christian community and gifted us for ministry:

To worship and glorify God
To transform faith into action
To share the love of Jesus Christ

The Right Reverend John Harvey Taylor
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

The Reverend Michael K. Fincher, Rector
562-420-1311
rector@stgregoryschurch.com

David J. Feit-Pretzer, Director of Music
714-899-1902

Kevin Wood, Parish Administrator
562-420-1311
info@stgregoryschurch.com

Parish Office Hours: 9:00 am-12:00 pm, Tuesday – Thursday
www.stgregoryschurch.com