

St. Ambrose Episcopal Church December 3, 2023, First Sunday of Advent

900 Edgewater Blvd Foster City, CA 94404 (650) 574-1369 - <u>office@stambrosefostercity.org</u> - <u>http://www.stambrosefostercity.org</u> Rector • pastoral calls and emergencies The Rev. Jason B. Lucas-Green 612.865.5442 <u>frjason@stambrosefostercity.org</u>

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude: Improvisation on Gather Hymn 328, The World In Stillness Waits

Welcome and Announcements

Processional Hymn #57 | Lo! He Comes



Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Helmsley*, melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

Opening Sentences

Celebrant:Blessed be the God, Father, Son, and Holy SpiritPeople:And blessed be his kingdom now and forever. Amen.

The 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. *Amen.*

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant:	The Lord be with you.
People:	And also with you.
Celebrant:	Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

First Lesson Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence-- as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;

we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Qui regis Israel

 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; * shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, * stir up your strength and come to help us. 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. 4 O Lord God of hosts, * how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people? 	 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, * and our enemies laugh us to scorn. 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, * the son of man you have made so strong for yourself. 17 And so will we never turn away from you; * give us life, that we may call upon your Name. 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
how long will you be angered	
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; * you have given them bowls of tears to drink.	show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Hymn Celtic Alleluia – two times through



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Holy Gospel Mark 13:24-37

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.*People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

Sermon

Rev. Father Christian Lehrer

THE 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.

Form IV

Deacon or other leader

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer*.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

People: Amen.

The Peace

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

Offertory Hymn: Savior of the Nations, Come

Doxology

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer A

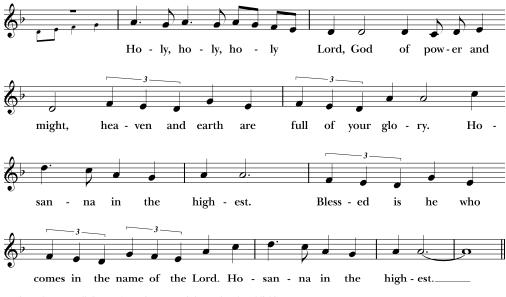
The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

	The Lord be with you.
People	And also 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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. 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:

Celebrant and People



Sanctus - S129

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

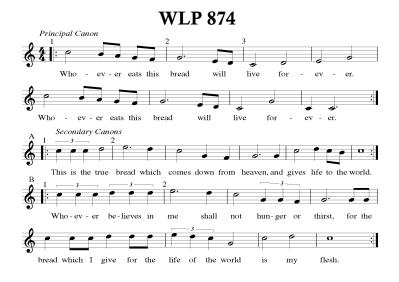
All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN*.

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

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom 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 kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Fraction Anthem

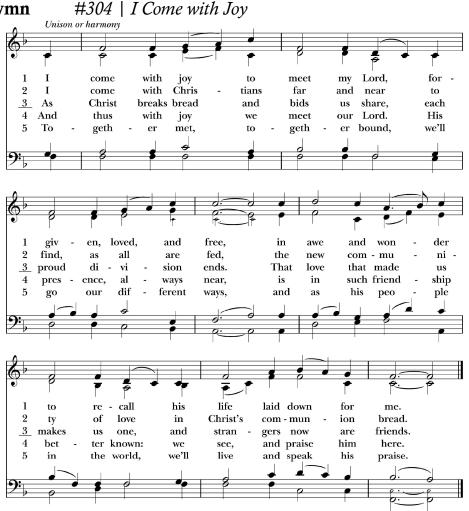


Invitation

Spiritual Communion

(Those watching at home, may, if they wish, say this prayer during the time of Communion.) In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of our Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, and remembering particularly my own parish and those worshiping there, I long to offer praise and thanksgiving for creation and all the blessing of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. And particularly for the blessings given me: (Here, those watching at home may add particular blessing for which they wish to give thanks). I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen

Communion Hymn



Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), alt. Copyright © 1971 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Land of Rest*, American folk melody; adapt. and harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983).

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Announcements

The Dismissal

Closing Hymn #68 | Rejoice! Rejoice Believers- #68



Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt. Music: Llangloffan, melody from Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, 1865.

The Blessing

Go now, Not to serve yourself, But to serve others; Not to seek your glory, but the glory of God the Father; And so may all you are and do make him known, And the Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Be with you always. **Amen**

Postlude: Peace is flowing like a river C. Landry

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The Mission of St. Ambrose Church of Foster City

Is to proclaim the Good News of God in Jesus Christ as we care for each other and our larger community. We worship in the Episcopal and Anglican tradition, extending an open and inclusive invitation to all people, welcoming children into our church family and serving those in need.

Worship Leaders:

Rev. Fr. Christian Lehrer Amanda Yuxin Dai, Music Director

Worship Leader Rota:

Intercessor Warren Wong/Lector Daniel Tate/Eucharist Minister Usher Alison LeBlanc, Livestream Technician

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Father Jason will be out on disability until the end of February (02/29/2024)

Music Director

Please welcome our new Music Director, Amanda Yuxin Dai. Amanda recently graduated with a Masters degree from Northwestern University.

Stewardship 2024

Your response to the 2024 Stewardship Campaign was heartwarming. Thank you all for making it joyful!

We greatly appreciate those who have handed in their 2024 pledges. There is not a deadline per se, but planning and budgeting for the upcoming year depends on timely receipt of your financial pledge.

Show up, step up, see each other deeply, listen for the call to kindness. Your community in Christ's love embraced.

All Parish Christmas Cookie Sale- December 10

This year, the Altar Guild invites everyone to join our beloved bake sale tradition. On **December 10th**, we welcome bakers and/or buyers to contribute 2-4 dozen holiday cookies or treats (non-perishable only, please) for our festive coffee hour. Enjoy filling holiday boxes with 18 delightful cookies, available for \$15.00 per box. Payment can be made by cash or check.

Throughout our 25-year tradition, this fundraiser has been crucial in supporting our weekly altar flowers, which now cost \$120.00 per week. As we evolve with time, let's uphold this cherished tradition. All proceeds directly fund our altar flowers, ensuring their presence each week.

Toys For Tots, December 1-15

Sea Breeze School is pleased to announce that we are an official **Toys for Tots** drop-off site for our school and the greater community. We are accepting donations of **NEW**, **UNWRAPPED TOYS** for the official **Toys for Tots** program. Please look for the donation box in the Narthex We are also accepting donations from the community. If you hear of anyone looking to donate to Toys For Tots, please feel free to send them to Sea Breeze School as we are a donation site for all. The last day to donate toys is **Friday**, **December 15th**.

Holiday Giving w/ Circle of Inspiration 2023

Dec 4, 2023 – San Mateo/Peninsula - Are you interested in sponsoring a family?

Register Not attending

EVENT DETAILS:

SMPC is again Partnering with Circle of Inspiration to fulfill Holiday wish lists for local families. If you'd like to be connected with a family, please register and complete the short questionnaire by **December 4.** SMPC and Circle of Inspiration will match you with a local family and provide their wish list.

Each wish list has a budget of \$30-40 per child and each child has 3 items on their wish list. Donors may choose to purchase 1, 2 or all 3 items from each child's wish list. The deadline to deliver donations to the recipients is **December 11** to the San Mateo school noted in your pairing. Circle of Inspiration is a local, volunteer nonprofit and community that offers resources and donations directly to its members. To learn more, visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/coisfba.

Sandwiches on Sunday – December 31st

We will again assemble the sandwiches and brown bags the day before, i.e., Saturday, December 30th, at the church from noon to 2 p.m. They will be distributed at the Fair Oaks Community Center in Redwood City on Sunday, December 31st, from 11:45 to 12:15 p.m. If you would like to help or have any questions, please contact Steve Yuen (cell 650-315-9662, <u>stevebyuen@aol.com</u>).

Coffee Hour

Join us for Coffee Hour after mass at 11:00 am in the courtyard. Coffee hour will be hosted by the Vestry on the <u>first Sunday</u> of the month. Please volunteer for the <u>other weeks</u> by using the link below or by the signup sheet in the Narthex by the Reflections & Gratitude Board:

Sign Up Genius https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4FA5A82CA0F94-coffee1

Worship Leaders Needed

Please sign up as a Lector for our 10:00* am Mass by emailing <u>office@stambrosefostercity.org</u> or the Church signup sheet. We also need Worship Leader volunteers for our 10:00* am Mass. There are openings for Intercessors, Lectors, Greeters, Ushers and Acolytes, and Livestream Technicians. Contact us at <u>office@stambrosefostercity.org</u> or use the following link to signup: <u>Signup</u> <u>Genius</u> or Click on the following link <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4FA5A82CA0F94-worship</u>

*No 8:30am service at this time

Sunday School 10 AM

Sunday school is offered every 2 weeks, the 1st and 3rd Sunday. Once we have a second teacher, we will have Sunday school weekly. Please contact Raphael Gerber <u>raphaele.gerber@gmail.com</u>

Rides for Gene Hetzer

Gene Hetzer a longtime church member and Karl his guide dog need rides on an alternating basis from church members. Please contact Jim Neubert to schedule a day for driving.

Bible Study

Every Tuesday at 1:00pm, we meet for Bible Study on Zoom and discuss the Scriptures for the upcoming Sunday Service. Join us! For questions, please contact Daniel Tate at 650-799-7084, or <u>dtate@ses.cdsp.edu</u> or Warren Wong at <u>wwong@nd.edu</u>

Contemplative Meditation

Every Wednesday 10am-11am we meet for Contemplative Meditation on Zoom. We read a variety of authors. We have read Jimmy Carter's book 'Faith'; a couple of prayers from Jean-Pierre Isbouts 'Ten Prayers That Have Changed The World'. If interested, please contact Hamilton Fong. <u>hfongster@gmail.com</u>

Prayer Support Group

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday after the service at 11:30am, we will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall to have a prayer meeting. Please join us any time as you are able. For questions, please contact Daniel Tate at 650-799-7084, or <u>dtate@ses.cdsp.edu</u>

<u>**Praver list:**</u> We pray especially for Yvonne Sidell, Jerelyn Weber, Charlene Adolph, Miles Martin, Barbara Milligan, Ed Avakoff, Max Gumbert, Isabella, Jerry Boykin, Carol Newman, Clara Padilla, Bettie Davis, Arjun Katyan, Janet Mc Annally, Elliott Dun, Alison LeBlanc, Peggy Chapman, Ronnie Rosen, Leo Gauthier, Alice Deckel, Mike Frisch, and the pupils and staff of Sea Breeze School. *For those who have died*: John Miller, Eva Rios Chong, Judi Guilford, John David Tate, Martin Gardiner

The Altar Flowers are given by:

The Altar Guild to the Glory of the Lord

[Please contact the parish office to add any names of the sick and suffering to be prayed for in our monthly cycle of prayer.]







Presider	Date
Rev. Fr. Christian Lehrer	Sunday, December 03, 2023
Rev. Fr. Christian Lehrer	Sunday, December 10, 2023
Rev. Fr. Christian Lehrer	Sunday, December 17, 2023
Rev. Fr. Christian Lehrer	Sunday, December 24, 2023

