



St. Ambrose Episcopal Church

December 17, 2023,

Third Sunday of Advent

900 Edgewater Blvd
Foster City, CA 94404

(650) 574-1369 - office@stambrosefostercity.org - <http://www.stambrosefostercity.org>

Rector • The Rev. Jason B. Lucas-Green

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude: Mary, Mary

F. Saunders 2004

Welcome and Announcements

Processional Hymn # 318 | People Look East

ADVENT

318 People, Look East

1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is
5. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of

near Of the crown - ing of the
bare. One more seed is plant - ed
build, Guard the nest that must be
dim One more light the bowl shall
mirth Him who brings new life to

year. Make your house fair as you are
there: Give up your strength the seed to
filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
brim, Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley

a - ble, Trim the hearth and set the
 nour - ish, That in course the flow'r may
 fro - zen He for fledg - ing time has
 weath - er, Bright as sun and moon to -
 hum - ming With the word, the Lord is

Peo - ple look East and sing to -
 ta - ble.
 flour - ish.
 cho - sen.
 geth - er.
 com - ing.

Peo - ple look East:
 Peo - ple look

day:
 Love the Guest is on the way.
 Love the Rose is on the way.
 Love the Bird is on the way.
 Love the Star is on the way.
 Love the Lord is on the way.
 East: Love is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965, © David Higham Assoc. Ltd.
 Tune: BESANCON, 87 98 87; French traditional; harm. by Martin Shaw, 1875-1958, © Oxford University Press

Opening Sentences

Celebrant: Blessed be the God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People: **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.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen*

First Lesson Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 126

In convertendo

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The Lord has done great things for them."

4 The Lord has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.

5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Second Lesson 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn Alleluia Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia

F. Saunders
December 4, 2023

♩ = 90
Verse 1
Voice
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
5
V.
lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
10
V.
lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
15
V.
lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel John 1:6-8,19-28

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Alleluia Alleluia, verse 2

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: #67 Comfort, comfort ye my people.

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.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

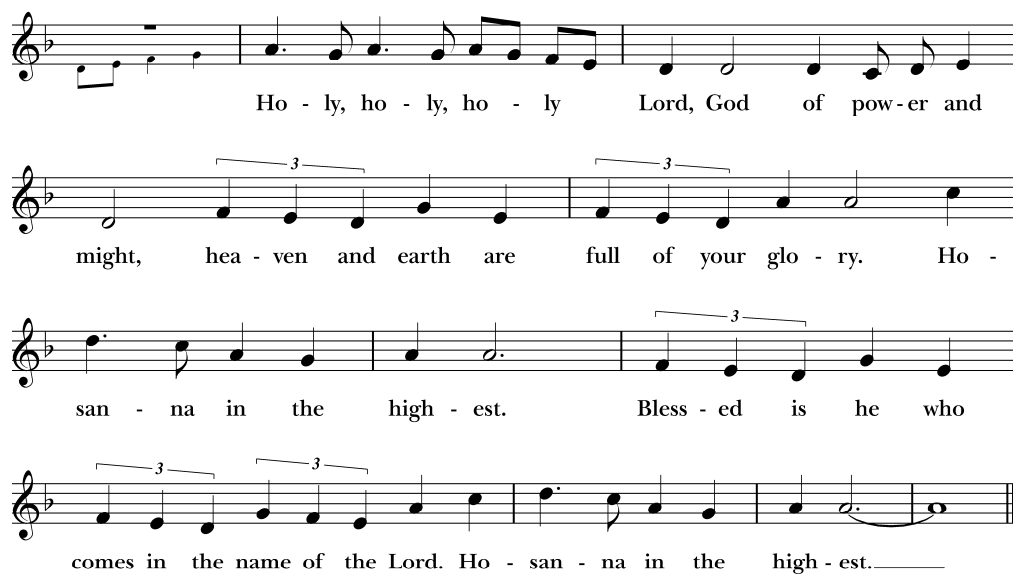
Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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. _____

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

S164 Jesus, Lamb of God: *Agnus Dei*

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

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 #56 *O come, O come, Emmanuel (verses 4-6)*



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 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!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

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 #320 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

ADVENT

320 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

Descant:

ah

1. The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And
 2. Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, To
 3. The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And
 4. And let the end - less bliss be - gin, By
 5. The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And

ah ah

light tri - um - phant breaks. When beau - ty gilds the
 suf - fer and to die, But crowned with glo - ry
 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing
 wea - ry saints fore - told, When right shall tri - umph
 light and beau - ty brings. Hail, Christ, the Lord! Your

(ah) ah

east - ern hills And life to joy a - wakes.
 like the sun That lights the morn - ing sky.
 of that morn Whose day shall ev - er last.
 o - ver wrong, And truth shall be ex - tolled.
 peo - ple pray: Come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1857-1925
 Tune: CONSOLATION, CM; John Wyeth, 1770-1858; arr. by Robert J. Batistini, b.1942, © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

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: Mendocino Blessing

Traditional

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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
Eugene Hetzer, Warren Wong/Lectors
Daniel Tate, Eucharist Minister
Usher
David McIntyre, 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.

Thank You, St. Ambrose Community!

We're thrilled to announce that our cookie sale was a resounding success, raising a grand total of \$800.00! This incredible accomplishment wouldn't have been possible without the dedication and talent of our amazing bakers. A heartfelt thank you goes out to:

Kyn Dellinger

Nilda Chong

April Cherrington

Dorothy Matsuo

Valerie Mersh

Bettie Davis

Marilyn Stephens

Sandwiches on Sunday – December 31st

Volunteers are needed for assembling 80 brown bag lunches 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, stevebyuen@aol.com).

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.

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 first Sunday of the month. Please volunteer for the other weeks 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 office@stambrosefostercity.org 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 office@stambrosefostercity.org or use the following link to signup: Signup Genius or Click on the following link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4FA5A82CA0F94-worship>

**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 raphaele.gerber@gmail.com

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 dtate@ses.cdsp.edu or Warren Wong at wwong@nd.edu

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. [hfongster@gmail.com](mailto:hongster@gmail.com)

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 dtate@ses.cdsp.edu

Prayer list: 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.]



Rev. Fr. Christian Lehrer	Sunday, December 17, 2023
Rev. Fr. Christian Lehrer	Sunday, December 24, 2023
Rev. Fr. Christian Lehrer	Sunday, Christmas Eve
Rev. Fr. Christian Lehrer	Sunday, December 31, 2023