



St. Ambrose Episcopal Church
December 24, 2023,
The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

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: Praeludium No. 1 in C major

J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Processional Hymn # 83 | O Come all ye Faithful verses 1-3

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -



6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others. Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The *English Hymnal*, 1906.

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.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen **Amen**

First Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader. The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 96

Cantate Domino

1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from
day to day.

3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.

4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be
praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are
but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his
presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his
sanctuary!

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the
peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name;
*
bring offerings and come into his courts.

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
*
let the whole earth tremble before him.

10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is
King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot
be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be
glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout
for joy
before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.

13 He will judge the world with righteousness
*
and the peoples with his truth.

Second Lesson Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

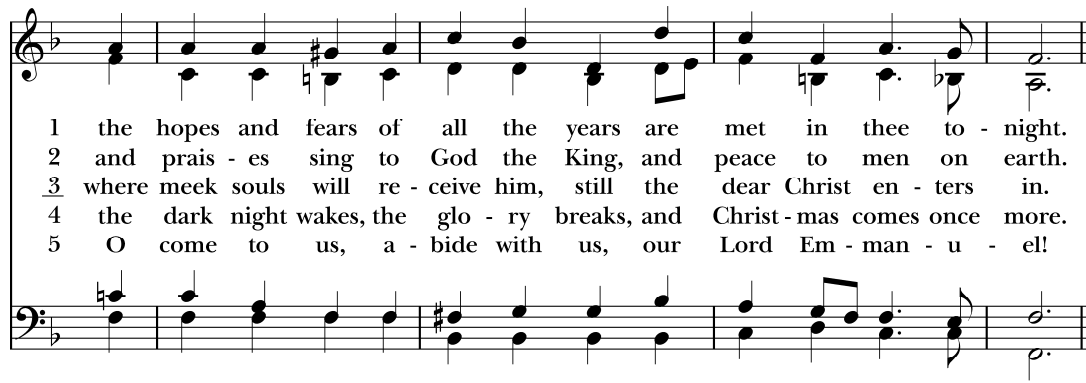
Hymn 79 O Little Town of Bethlehem verses 1-2



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893). Music: *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908).

Holy Gospel Luke 2:1-14

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

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

79 O Little Town of Bethlehem verse 3

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: #112 In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Doxology

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer B

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with 'Celebrant' and 'People' labels above the corresponding parts. The first staff shows the Celebrant saying 'The Lord be with you.' and the People responding 'And al - so with you.' The second staff shows the Celebrant saying 'Lift up your hearts.' and the People responding 'We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff shows the Celebrant saying 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff shows the People responding 'It is right to give him thanks and praise.'

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

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. 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 every- where 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

Then the Celebrant continues

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,

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

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 Ambrose 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 say,

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 #111 Silent Night

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

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 #87 Hark, the herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain
 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915).

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: Festival for Carillon

arr. F. Saunders

All music reprinted with permission—One License # A—72047

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

Lectors

Daniel Tate, Eucharist Minister

Usher

Ali 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.

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

*Christmas Altar Flowers are given to the **Glory of God** and:*

In loving memory of Gregory Landon Cozzi from Bettie J. Davis

In loving memory of Myrtle Dellinger from Kyn Dellinger

In loving memory of Roco Frank DeTorre from Jean DeTorre Ozeki

In memory of Donald P and Joy V. Gundry from Don Gundry

In loving memory of Millicent Soar (aged 2 yrs.) Janet Gardiner

In loving memory of my mother from Ali LeBlanc

In honor of Elliott Dun and Valerie Mersh from Teresa Murakami

In thanksgiving from Daphne Rhodes

In thanksgiving from Diane Robertson

[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 24, 2023
Rev. Fr. Christian Lehrer	Sunday, Christmas Eve
Rev. Fr. Christian Lehrer	Sunday, December 31, 2023
Rev. Fr. Christian Lehrer	Sunday January 7, 2024