

St. Ambrose Episcopal Church December 31, 2023, First Sunday after Christmas

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

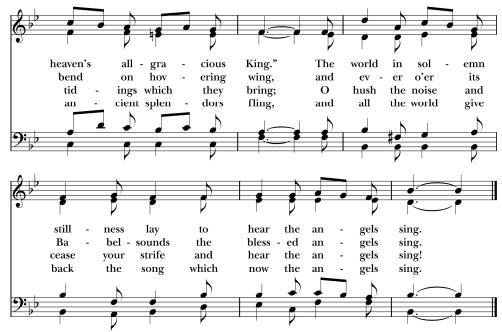
Prelude: The Spruce' from The Trees, Op. 75 No. 5

Jean Sibelius

Welcome and Announcements

Processional Hymn # 89 | It Came Upon A Midnight Clear





Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt. Music: Carol, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900).

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.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

First Lesson Isaiah 61:10-62:3

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. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

The Response

Psalm 147

Laudate Dominum

1 Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! * how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

- 2 The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; * he gathers the exiles of Israel.
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted * and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He counts the number of the stars * and calls them all by their names.
- 5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; * there is no limit to his wisdom.
- 6 The Lord lifts up the lowly, * but casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; * make music to our God upon the harp.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds * and prepares rain for the earth;
- 9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains * and green plants to serve mankind.
- 10 He provides food for flocks and herds * and for the young ravens when they cry.

- 11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; * he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- 12 But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, * in those who await his gracious favor.
- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; * praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; * he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; * he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, * and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; * he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; * who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; * he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, * his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

21 He has not done so to any other nation; * to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

Second Lesson Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

Hymn Alleluia Alleluia



Holy Gospel John 1:1-18

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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.

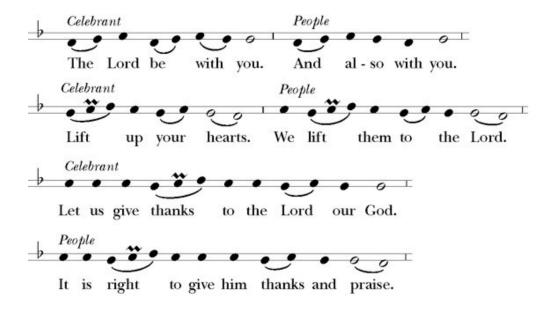
People: And also with you.

Offertory Hymn: #115 What Child Is This

Doxology

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer B

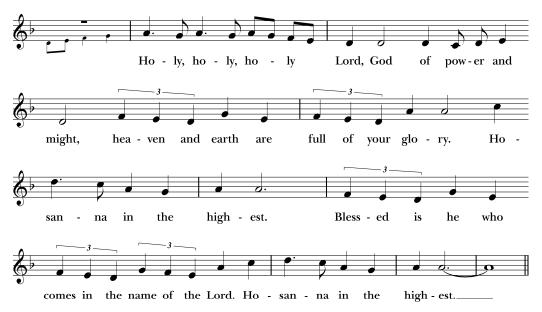


Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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



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

The people stand or kneel.

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 <u>Ambrose</u> 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

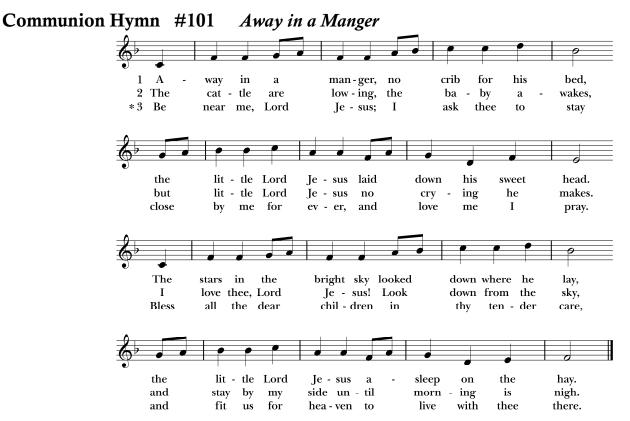


Music: From Deutsche Messe; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

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



Words: Traditional carol. Music: *Cradle Song*, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

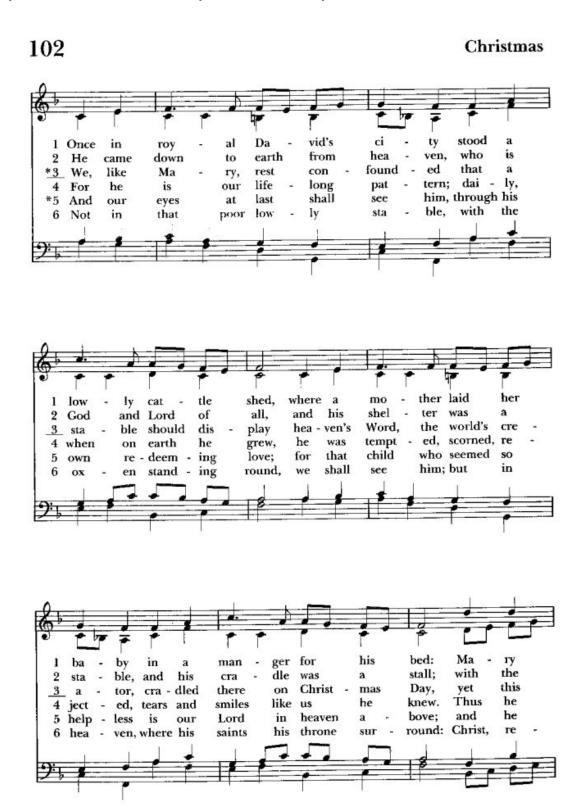
Post Communion Prayer

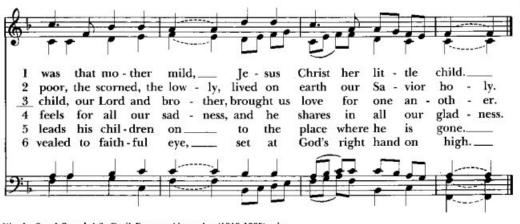
Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, 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 # 102 Once in Royal David's City





Words: Sts. 1-2 and 4-6, Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alc.; st. 3, James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)

Music: Irby, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)

87. 87. 77

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
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.

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, stevelyuen@aol.com).

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	Dorothy Matsuo	Marilyn Stephens
Nilda Chong	Valerie Mersh	
April Cherrington	Bettie Davis	

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 <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 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 Or Click on the following link https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4FA5A82CA0F94-worship

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

^{*}No 8:30am service at this time

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 www.uwong@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

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

<u>Prayer 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.]

Rev. Fr. Christian Lehrer	Sunday, January 7, 2024
Rev. Rebecca Goldberg	Sunday, January 14, 2024
Rev. Rebecca Goldberg	Sunday, January 21, 2024
Rev. Rebecca Goldberg	Sunday, January 28, 2024