

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

December 25th, 2022, 10:00am



Please take a moment to silence your cellphone. Thank you.

Please also note that our services are publicly livestreamed.

Covid Safety Reminders

We are happy to welcome you! For your health and safety, we strongly recommend all persons be vaccinated against COVID and influenza. Masks are not required, but encouraged, particularly for unvaccinated and immunocompromised persons. Please take advantage of our online worship to stay home if you are feeling unwell in any way.

The Word of God

Prelude

*We welcome Pamela Maran as our guest organist this morning,
and Anna Eakins and Susie Zimmerman as cantors.*

Please STAND as able, and join in singing.

The Processional Hymn

O Come, All ye Faithful

Hymn #83

**1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!**

**O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him,
born the King of angels.**

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

**2. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,**

**sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest:
*[Refrain]***

**3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;**

**Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
*[Refrain]***

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant I bring you good news of great joy for all people:

to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Christ the Lord.

People **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Alleluia!**

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant Almighty God,

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

Please remain STANDING, as able and join in singing,

The Gloria

Angels We Have Heard On High

Hymn #96, vv. 1, 3

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee

Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *[Refrain]*

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Isaiah 62:6-12

1st Reader A Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

1st Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God

The Response **Psalm 98:1-6, Cantate Domino**

Reader Let us read from Psalm 98 responsively (*the People reading the text in bold*).
Please join in singing,

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

² **With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory.**

³ The Lord has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

⁴ **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

⁵ Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

¹⁰ **In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

The Second Lesson Hebrews 1.1-4

2nd Reader A reading from Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

2nd Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God

Please STAND, as able, and join in singing,

Gospel Procession

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

Hymn #105, vv. 1- 4

Refrain:

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

**1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay;
remember Christ, our Savior
was born on Christmas Day
to save us all from Satan's pow'r
when we were gone astray. [Refrain]**

**3. "Fear not," then said the angel,
"let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior,
the true and radiant light,
to free all those who trust in him
from Satan's pow'r and might." [Refrain]**

**2. From God our heav'nly Father
a blessed angel came
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born
the son of God by name. [Refrain]**

**4. Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and in true love and fellowship
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
is filled with heav'nly grace. [Refrain]**

Please remain STANDING, as able.

The Holy Gospel John 1.1-14

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

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.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated for the sermon.

The Sermon

The Rev. Jerry Sather

There will be a moment of silence following the sermon.

Please STAND as able, and join in saying,

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

All **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 human.**

**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.**

**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.**

Please remain STANDING, as able, for

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the church and the world saying, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your Son, the eternal Word, who became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Extend His praise into all the world, that with us many would come to hope in His steadfast love. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, bless all bishops, priests, deacons, and laity in their ministry of proclamation, that all people might hear the good news of happiness and salvation through Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, as our families gather in this holy season, give us patience, that we may be slow to judge and quick to forgive. Comfort the lonely with your presence and make us mindful of those who experience poverty and want, and teach us to be generous. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son upholds the universe by the word of His power. Grant our nation to walk humbly before You. Bless our service members and first responders who stand watch this day. Keep them in safety as they serve us, and uphold their families while they are apart. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, guard and keep all who are sick, lonely, overwhelmed by grief or poor in spirit, especially those we name to you now... *(please add your own names silently or aloud)*. May they be comforted and healed according to Your good and gracious will. Let them look to Jesus Christ and be reminded that He is the light no darkness can overcome. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank You, Lord God, for all Your people who have gone before us and now rest in Your presence. Keep us faithful with them until that day when You make all things new. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Almighty God, in the birth of your Son you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word, and shown us the fullness of your love: help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love that we may know the fullness of his joy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Ministers and People exchange signs of peace in the name of the Lord.

Please be seated.

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Music

Please STAND as able, and join in singing,

Offertory Hymn

Hymn #115 1-3

What Child is This?

**What child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

Refrain:

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

**Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading. [Refrain]
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him. [Refrain]**

Please remain STANDING, as able, for,

The Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant 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.

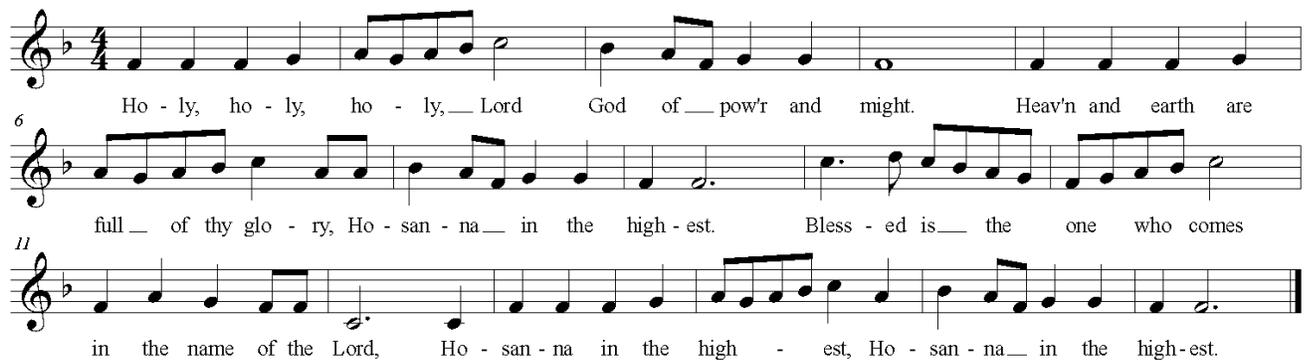
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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:

Please remain **STANDING** as able, and join in singing,

The Sanctus

Forest Green



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heav'n and earth are
full of thy glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord, Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: "Forest Green," Traditional English folk melody; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

All STAND or kneel as 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,

**All 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, bring all things under the influence of your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St Francis 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.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All **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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

Fraction Anthem

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Hymn #324, v. 1, 2

Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
7 King of Kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on earth he stood,
Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed, for with bless - ing in His hand,
13 Lord of Lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood
Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth, Our full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.

Words: Liturgy of St. James, 4th cent., para. Gerard Moultrie (1820-1885). Music: "Picardy," French carol; harm. after "The English Hymnal."

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

For our online community—an invitation to pray together the spiritual communion prayer from the National Cathedral. A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

The Communion of the People

All are invited to receive Holy Communion. Please follow the directions of the ushers. If you do not wish to receive, we encourage you to come forward to receive a blessing. Simply fold your hands across your chest when you come forward. The clergy will carry Communion to anyone in the congregation who is unable to come forward. Please notify an usher if you wish Communion to be brought to you. Gluten-free Communion wafers are available. If you require one of these, simply ask.

Communion Hymn

Away in a manger

Hymn #101, v. 1-3

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

Following communion, please STAND, as able,

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of 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, O God, your Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.**

The Blessing

Celebrant May Christ, who by His Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the ✠ Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Sending Forth

Deacon Go forth with rejoicing, Jesus Christ is born!

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please STAND as able, and join in singing.

Recessional Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hymn #87, v. 1-3

1. **Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.**

2. **Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.**

3. **Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace:**

**hail, the Sun of Righteousness.
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.
Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.**

Postlude

Welcome!

We warmly welcome you if you are here with us for the first time today. We joyfully welcome *all* people into our community – without exception. Whoever you are, and whatever the status of your relationship with God, you will find fellow travelers here.

With blessings and peace from the community of St Francis Church.

Thank you for worshipping with us!

Prayers this Week

We pray for all those who serve in the armed and foreign services, and for their families, especially Drew Deley, Michael Heredia, Mark Kappelmann, TJ Malzahn, Will Piepenbring, Scott Ruston, Michael Strong, Jonathan Zimmerman and Steve.

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in any other kind of need or trouble: Andrea, Amy Clute, Daniel Drayling, Pauline Duley, Ceri Falk, Colette Furbush, Sally Hill, Mick Mohuchy, Marjorie Morris, Anne Marie Morris, Greg Morris, Mike Morris, Bruce Schaefer, Patricia Stewart, and Stephen.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Weekly Worship

Sundays

8am—Rite I Holy Communion, Chapel

10am— Rite II Holy Communion, Main Sanctuary, followed by coffee fellowship under the arches.

Ongoing

Bible Study on Zoom—Contacts: Jack Hailwood, john.w.hailwood@outlook.com or Suellen Eslinger, suellenesl@verizon.net

Yoga—Mondays from 11:30am –1:00pm - All Levels Hatha Yoga for Strength and Mobility.

Wednesdays 9:00-10:30am All Levels Gentle Yoga for Vital Mobility and Balance.

(free-will offering). Contact: Jill, jillfenskelynych@gmail.com

Meditation—Thursdays 9:30-10:30am—in the Nason Chapel. Contact: Susie Zimmerman susiezimmerman@gmail.com;

AA—Thursdays & Sundays 7:30 pm, **Al-Anon**—Thursdays 7:00pm

Our Clergy

The Rev. Jerry E. Sather, Priest in Charge (Interim), jerry.sather@stfrancispalosverdes.org

Direct Line: (310) 594-7984, Church Office: (310) 375-4617

The Rev. Celeste Stump, Deacon, Chaplain at The Canterbury, cstump@thecanterbury.org

Children and families

Contact: Kristina Pelá, krab3@yahoo.com

If you would like to find out more, or how to get involved and make friends, please contact either the Rev. Jerry Sather, jerry.sather@stfrancispalosverdes.org, or our Ministry Council Shepherd—Kristina Pelá krab3@yahoo.com
And/or scan the code below to join our online mailing list.

Our Staff

Dr. Mark Bennett, (310) 594-7416, mark.bennett@stfrancispalosverdes.org, Director of Music

Claire Erbeznik, (310) 375 4617, claire.erbeznik@strancispalosverdes.org, Office Administrator & Receptionist

Mr. David Knight, Organist.

Dr. Susan Marshall, (310) 594-8427, publications@stfrancispalosverdes.org, Communications Specialist & Media Manager

Mr. Joel Miranda, Sexton

Mrs. Elaine Mistele, (310) 594-8268, elaine.mistele@stfrancispalosverdes.org, Business Manager

Need help or Prayers? Contact: Jerry+ 310 594-7984 jerry.sather@stfrancispalosverdes.org



Learn more about these
and all our Ministries—subscribe to our
weekly newsletter.



Find us on:
St Francis Palos Verdes



@saintfrancisepiscopal



https://www.youtube.com/c/

StFrancisEpiscopalChurchPalosVerdes

St Francis Episcopal Church, 2200 Via Rosa, Palos Verdes, CA 90274, 310 375-4617.

www.stfrancispalosverdes.org