



### Welcome to St. Francis Church

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.

Please see the enclosed sheet to donate for our celebratory Christmas decorations and music. Your generous music donations also help to maintain our regular year-round program.

*Thank you!*

Celebrant/Preacher: ..... The Rev. Jerry Sather

Deacon: ..... The Rev. Celeste Stump

Prelude: *Stuttgart* ..... arr. David Knight

Processional Hymn—**Blest Be the King Whose Coming** ..... Hymn #74, vv. 1-4

Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of God! For  
Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of God! By  
Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of God! He  
Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of God! He

5  
him let doors be o - pened, no hearts a - gainst him barred! Not  
those who tru - ly lis - ten his voice is tru - ly heard; pi -  
on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of God. All  
9 of - fers to the bur - dened the rest and grace they need. Gen -

13  
robed in roy - al splen - dor, in power and pomp, comes he; but  
ty the proud and haugh - ty, who have not learned to heed the  
power is his, all glo - ry! All things are in his hand, all  
13 tle is he and hum - ble! And light his yoke shall be, for

clad as are the poor - est, such his hu - mi - li - ty!  
Christ w  
a - g  
he would have us bear — it so he can make us free!

Words by F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984) Music ENGELBERG Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Words: Frederico J. Pagura (b. 1923); tr. Fred Pratt Green (b. 1903), Copyright © 1974 by Hope Publishing Company.  
Music: "Valet will ich dir geben," Melchior Teschner (1584-1635); harm. and desc. Ronald Arnatt (b. 1930).

The Opening Acclamation..... Book of Common Prayer, p. 323  
(this and all similar page refs. refer to Book of Common Prayer—the red book in the pew rack in front of you)

The Kyrie..... p. 324

The Collect of the Day ..... p. 159  
The First Lesson ..... Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!"  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler,  
not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Response: Psalm 146:4-9 *Lauda, anima mea* ..... p.803  
The Second Lesson..... James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Gospel .....Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Sermon ..... The Rev. Jerry Sather  
 The Nicene Creed..... p. 327  
 The Prayers of the People ..... p. 328  
 The Confession of Sin..... p. 331  
 The Peace..... p. 332  
 Welcome and Announcements  
 The Great Thanksgiving ..... p. 340  
 The Lord's Prayer..... p. 336  
 The Breaking of the Bread ..... p. 337

*The clergy will carry the Sacrament to anyone in the congregation who is unable to come forward for Holy Communion. Please inform one of the ushers if you would like to be served at your seat. Gluten-free Communion wafers are now carried alongside regular wafers at Holy Communion. If you require one of these, simply ask at the Altar rail.*

Post Communion Prayer ..... p. 339  
 Blessing and Sending Forth ..... p. 339  
 Closing Hymn: ..... Hymn #437, vv. 1-4

Words: Timothy Dudley Smith (b. 1926), Copyright © 1962 by Hope Publishing Company.  
 Music: "Birmingham," frm "Repository of Sacred Music, Part II," 1813; harm. "Songs of Praise," 1925.

Postlude: *Hyfrydol* ..... Prichard/arr. Richard Blake

# 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.

## Christmas Services

**Saturday, December 24,**

### **Family-friendly Christmas Eucharist - 4pm in the Main Sanctuary**

Bring your out-of-town visitors and all your family and friends (including the very littlest who are more than welcome!), to this joyful, family-friendly Christmas Eucharist. All the traditional carols, and the Christmas Story told through scripture and music.

Plus! St. Nicholas (aka Santa) will be dropping by for a visit during this service.

**Saturday, December 24,**

### **Winter Glow! 8:15pm in the Main Sanctuary**

The voices of our angelic St. Francis choir, with instrumental accompaniment, will transport you to a heavenly Christmas experience. From quiet, soulful carols – ‘*Who but the Lord*’ by Craig Courtney – to a final triumphant ‘*Joy to the World*’.

*This special choral offering will end at approximately 8:40pm and will be followed by:*

### **Holy Eucharist with Candles, Carols and Choir**

#### **9pm Main Sanctuary**

With a candlelit start to the service, celebrate the joy of the birth of our Lord. A beautiful, warm service of light and music will fill your heart with the deepest spirit and peace of Christmas. Silent Night sung by the light of tapers is a long-standing St. Francis tradition and a most holy experience.

**Sunday, December 25, 10am, Main Sanctuary**

Christmas Day is here! Holy Eucharist, again with all the much-loved carols and music.

*This service will be livestreamed. All others are in-person only.*

### 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.

Need help or Prayers? Contact: Jerry+ 310 594-7984 [jerry.sather@stfrancispalosverdes.org](mailto:jerry.sather@stfrancispalosverdes.org)



Don't miss out!—scan the code to join our electronic mailing list.