

# WORSHIP

El Montecito  
Presbyterian Church



December 17, 2023, **Third Sunday of Advent**

May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores bring tribute to him. May the kings of Sheba and Seba present him gifts. May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him. **Psalm 72:10-11**

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## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

David Talbott

Welcome to Our Life Together

Tom Haugen

Prayer of Invocation

Music of Preparation

## GIVING PRAISE TO GOD

**\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 98

Leader: Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

**People: The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Leader: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn - shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

**All: Let the sea resound and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Joy

Tim, Adrienne, Travis and  
Gavin Rutland

*\* Please stand if you are able.*

## **\*Hymn of Praise**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Come, Thou long expected Jesus<br>Born to set Thy people free;<br>From our fears and sins release us,<br>Let us find our rest in Thee.<br>Israel's strength and consolation,<br>Hope of all the earth Thou art;<br>Dear desire of every nation,<br>Joy of every longing heart. | 2. Born Thy people to deliver,<br>Born a child and yet a King,<br>Born to reign in us forever,<br>Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.<br>By Thine own eternal Spirit<br>Rule in all our hearts alone;<br>By Thine all sufficient merit,<br>Raise us to Thy glorious throne. |
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## **Confession of Sin** Unison

Gracious God, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that we have not always turned to you for guidance. At times we have allowed the world's time to dominate your time. Forgive us our sins of hurriedness and impatience. Forgive us when we have slumbered instead of remaining alert, waiting and watching for you. Forgive us for allowing the world's fears to become our fears. Shine brightly on us this Advent season so we may be restored and renewed. Guide us into your time and way, so that we may be at one with you when all your glory is revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Take a moment to confess your sins to God, knowing that he hears and forgives.*

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Psalm 130:7-8

Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

Leader: Hear and believe the good news of the gospel!

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

## **GIVING OURSELVES & OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD**

In addition to giving through the passed offering plates, you are also welcome to give online at our website or scan the QR code on the back cover. Remember our tithes and offerings are a continued act of worship and a physical act of trusting all of our lives to Jesus as we join God in his work in our community and around the world.

## **Prayer of Dedication for Our Tithes & Offerings**

Janet Gates

## Offertory

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

## \*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Children in grades K-6 are dismissed for ELMO Pres kids downstairs in the Creative Studios.*

## Prayers for the Church and the World

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

## \*Hymn of Preparation

*Light of the World*

1.Light of the world, treas - ure of heav - en, Bril - liant like the stars in the win - ter - y sky.  
2.Light of the world, from the be - gin - ning, The trag - e - dies of time were no match for Your love. From  
3.Light of the world, crown in a man - ger, Born for the cross to suf - fer, to save.  
4.Light of the world, soon will be com - ing. With fi - re in His eyes, He will ran - som His own. Through

Joy of the Fa - ther, reach through the dark - ness, Shine a-cross the earth, send the shad ows to flight.  
great heights of glo - ry, You saw my sto - ry. God, You en - tered in and be - came one of us.  
High King of Heav - ven, death is the poor - er. We are the rich - er by the price that He paid.  
clouds He will lead us stright in - to glo - ry. There He shall reign for - ev - er - more.

Sing Hal - le - lu - jah! Sing Hal - le - lu - jah! Sing Hal - le - lu - jah for the things He has done!

Come and a - dore Him, bow down be - fore Him. Sing Hal - le - lu - jah to the Light of the world.

## Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12

## Sermon

*The Guiding Light*

Tom Haugen

# GOING IN GOD'S NAME

## \*Hymn of Response

## *O Holy Night*

1. O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

### **Chorus**

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!  
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.  
O night, O holy night, O night divine.

2. Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming;  
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand:  
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here come the wise men from Orient land,  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
In all our trials born to be our friend;

### **Chorus**

He knows our need, To our weakness no stranger!  
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King! your King! before him bend!

3. Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is Love and His gospel is Peace;  
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in his name all oppression shall cease,  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we;  
Let all within us praise his Holy name!

### **Chorus**

Christ is the Lord, then ever! ever praise we!  
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!  
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!

### **Chorus**

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!  
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.  
O night, O holy night, O night divine.

### **\*Benediction**

### **Postlude**



Sermon Notes:

## Welcome to El Montecito Presbyterian Church

**Welcome Visitors!** We are glad you are worshipping with us today. **Please fill out a Visitor Card** or email us at [admin@elmopres.org](mailto:admin@elmopres.org) so we can get to know you better and send you our weekly newsletter. You can also connect with us on our website at: [elmopres.org](http://elmopres.org) or on Instagram @elmopres or subscribe to our YouTube channel: El Montecito Presbyterian Church.



### ELMO Pres Kids & Youth

#### Sunday Mornings with ELMO Pres Kids:

Nursery (age 0-2.5) & Preschool (age 2.5-5) from 9:50 a.m. until end of Worship in the Early School classrooms. Curriculum: *The Beginner's Gospel Story Bible* by Jared Kennedy.

K-6th Children begin in Worship and will be dismissed at 10:15 a.m. for ELMO Pres Kids. Pick up at 11:15 in the Creative Studios. Curriculum: *The Biggest Story Curriculum* by Crossway.

Youth: 6th—12th grade students meet together on the 1st and 3rd Friday night of the month from 6-8 p.m. Next up: January 5 & 19, 2024.

**Sign up for the ELMO Pres Family Newsletter!** Email: [LauriHaugen@elmopres.org](mailto:LauriHaugen@elmopres.org).

### Caring

Please take some time to pray specifically for the needs of the Church, local community, state, country and world. Email your prayer requests to [prayers@elmopres.org](mailto:prayers@elmopres.org).

Our Ministry Partners the Bultemas, Callisons, Ostbys, Warners, Vivancos. Mayu Luz Gullien Villanueva, Everetts at Rancho Sordo Mundo and Pastor Noe Perez Gomez at Iglesia Cristo es el Camino, SB Rescue Mission, Transition House and Network Medical Women's Center of SB.

Morgan Hale US Navy, Miles Hale US Army, sons of Rob and Christine Hale, James Wentzel, US Air Force, son of Bob and Nancy Phinney. Jack Burrows US Army, grandson of Sydney and Peter Tredick.

Bereavement for the friends and family of Carol Luce.

Jim Worthen, for recovery from surgery.

Imre Patterson, for recovery from surgery.

Halleine Morrison, for continued recovery.

Donna Medwid, for recovery from a fall which resulted in hip surgery.

Ann Marie King, for her unstable heart condition and wisdom from her doctors.

Curtis Whiteman for continued healing.

Bring peace to Israel and Gaza

## Connecting & Serving

**Christmas Eve at ELMO! Sunday, December 24, 10:00 a.m., 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.**

Celebrate our Savior's birth! Join us for a worship gathering in the morning and Candlelight Christmas Eve at 5 or 7 p.m. ELMO Pres Kids at 10:00 a.m. and childcare for ages 0-5 at 5:00 p.m.

**Santa Barbara Rescue Mission Christmas Clothing Drive, through Tuesday, December 19**

We are collecting new clothing items for men and women, along with other provisions, that may be dropped off at the Rescue Mission at 535 East Yanonali St. by Tuesday, Dec. 19. Flyers with details are available in the narthex and the church office.

**Church Offices Closed, Monday December 25, 2023 through Tuesday, January 2, 2024**

The church office will be closed for the week between Christmas and New Years. It will reopen on Wednesday, January 3 at 9:00 a.m. Happy New Year! Morning worship, December 31 at 10:00 a.m.

**Women in the Word, Mondays at 9:30 a.m. Not meeting December 25 or January 1**

Join us Mondays in the Fellowship Hall for "Celebrating Life in the Kingdom" an in-depth study of the book of Matthew and an overview by Patty Wilson.

**Women's Bible Study, Thursdays 7:45 - 9:00 a.m. at IHOP on State St.**

Starting a new study on Worship - What do we mean and what does it include?

**Men's Bible Study, Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Library**

You're invited to join us in a study of the Book of Acts. Bring your Bible, coffee is provided.

### **Connect with our Ministry Partners**

*Please continue sending notes of encouragement to our Ministry Partners:*

Greg and Chris Callison: gregandchris@callison.net; James and Renata Bultema: jamesbultema@spccturkey.com, renatabultema@spccturkey.com, Dana and Karen Ostby: danaostby@gmail.com, karina@lite.email; and Ryan and Brittany Warner: rwarner@fca.org, bwarner@fca.org, United World Mission, Mexico, Mayu Guillen Villanueva: mayuguivi@gmail.com and Manuel & Laura Vivanco: laura.vivanco@uwm.org, Rancho Sordo Mundo, Ed Everett: ranchsordomundo@hotmail.com Luke Everett: sanlucasrsm@gmail.com.

**Acts 1:8 Connection: Baja Ministry Partner Pastor Noe Perez Gomez**

Praises and prayer requests:

- Praise for God's rich provision for recent eye surgery that has improved Pastor Noe's vision.
- Praise for God's nurturing of the long relationship between the congregations of El Montecito and Cristo es el Camino (Christ is the Way).
- Prayers for several women in the Cristo es el Camino congregation who are in poor health.
- Prayers for Pastor Noe's 86-year-old father who will soon travel from Chiapas to Mexico City for hip surgery.

**Office hours, Monday—Thursday, 9 AM to 2 PM 805-969-5041**

*Rev. Dr. Tom Haugen, Pastor*

*Rev. Lauri Haugen, Asst. Pastor to Families*

*Brad Catron, Facilities Manager*

*Mary Hurt, Worship Director*

*Maryann Spradley, Office Administrator*

*Michele Sullivan, Accountant*

*The Entire Congregation, Ministers of the Gospel*

**El Montecito Early School**

*Christine Hale, Early School Director*

*tomhaugen@elmopres.org*

*laurihaugen@elmopres.org*

*bradcatron@elmopres.org*

*maryhurt@elmopres.org*

*admin@elmopres.org*

*accounting@elmopres.org*

**805-969-3566**

*christine@elmopres.org*

**Elders**

*Tom Haugen, Moderator*

*Janet Gates, Clerk of Session*

*Erin Barr*

*Shelley Fogg*

*Terry Foil*

*Nathan Gates*

*Rob Hale*

*Barbara Mendelson*

*Mary Slater*

**Deacons**

*Melissa Hillegas and Darlene James,*

*Co-chairs & Congregational Care*

*Kersten Barr, Community Life*

*Judy Cooper-Ashford, Cards & Visitation*

*Chase Enright, Greeters*

*Brian Johnson, Reception*

If you would like to connect with one of the following, please email them at:

**Elders:** [elders@elmopres.org](mailto:elders@elmopres.org),

**Deacons:** [deacons@elmopres.org](mailto:deacons@elmopres.org)

**Facilities:** [facilities@elmopres.org](mailto:facilities@elmopres.org)



1455 East Valley Rd., Montecito

**Mailing:** P.O. Box 5369,  
Santa Barbara, CA 93150

[www.elmopres.org](http://www.elmopres.org)

