

EL MONTECITO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

CANDLELIGHT LESSONS & CAROLS

Tuesday, December 24, 2024 - 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

*"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid.
I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.'" Luke 2:10*

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

ELMO Pres. Instrumentalists

Music of Preparation

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a Child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Tom Haugen

Lighting of the Christ Candle

4 p.m.—Mitchell, Anna, Genevieve & Grant Bragg

5:30 p.m.—Erin, Kersten & James Barr

***Call to Worship—Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

(The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah)

Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

People: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Leader: Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

All: He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

***Hymn**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appears.

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!*

O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
[Refrain]

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go. [Refrain]

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease,
Fill all the world with heaven's peace. [Refrain]

First Lesson—Reading

Luke 1:26-38

(An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.)

Hymn

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Choir

As you listen to the choir sing, we invite you into a time of silent prayer and reflection.

Second Lesson— Reading

Matthew 1:18-23

(The angel of the Lord appears to Joseph and announces the birth of Jesus.)

***Hymn**

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?

*This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

*Raise, raise a song on high
The virgin sings her lullaby
Joy, joy for Christ is born
The babe, the Son of Mary*

*Nails, spears shall pierce Him through
The cross be born for me, for you
Hail, Hail, the Word made flesh
The babe, the Son of Mary*

Third Lesson & Living Nativity (ELMO Pres Kids—4 p.m.)

The Reading

Luke 2:1-20

(The birth of Christ and the angels appear to the shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah)

The history of live nativity scenes originated with St. Francis of Assisi, who created the first public nativity scene in 1223. Assisi built a replica of the manger scene high on a mountain at his hermitage in Greccio near Assisi. People from the village walked in a torch-lit procession to see the nativity. Italians continue to celebrate the arrival of Christ with elaborate living nativity scenes ("Presepi Viventi") during the Christmas season. This year at ELMO Pres, we will carry on the tradition as our children create a Living Nativity.

***Hymn**

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With th'angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace
Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n 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 newborn King

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail th'incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Fourth Lesson – Reading

Matthew 2:1-11

(Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus)

GIVING OURSELVES & OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

Prayer of Dedication for Our Tithes & Offerings

To give, there are baskets near the entrance, or you may scan the QR code to give online.



Hymn

O Holy Night

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior'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!

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 came the Wise Men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our Friend.

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

*He knows our need — to our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!*

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.

*Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!*

Fifth Lesson—Reading

John 1:1-14

(The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full grace and truth)

***Hymn**

Joy Has Dawned/Angels We Have Heard on High

Joy has dawned upon the world
Promised from creation
God's salvation now unfurled
Hope for ev'ry nation
Not with fanfares from above
Not with scenes of glory
But a humble gift of love
Jesus born of Mary

Son of Adam, Son of heaven
Given as a ransom
Reconciling God and man
Christ, our mighty champion!
What a Savior! What a Friend!
What a glorious myst'ry!
Once a babe in Bethlehem
Now the Lord of hist'ry

Sounds of wonder fill the sky
With the songs of angels
As the mighty Prince of Life
Shelters in a stable
Hands that set each star in place
Shaped the earth in darkness
Cling now to a mother's breast
Vuln'erable and helpless

Chorus
Gloria In Excelsis Deo
Gloria In Excelsis Deo

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

Shepherds bow before the Lamb
Gazing at the glory
Gifts of men from distant lands
Prophesy the story
Gold—a King is born today
Incense—God is with us
Myrrh—His death will make a way
And by His blood He'll win us

Chorus
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

The Lighting of the Candles

Lighting our candles is a simple way of remembering that Jesus is our light and salvation

John 8:12: “When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”

Please remain seated as the candlelight from the Christ candle is passed.

Hymn

Silent Night!

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
‘Round yon virgin mother and Child!
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace!
Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing, “Alleluia!”
Christ, the Savior is born!
Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

***Hymn**

Joy to the World

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 Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

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.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

***Benediction**

Postlude

We've been given the greatest gift in the history of the world. God came down and brought salvation, light and life through a baby named Jesus. We're glad you joined us tonight! We invite you to worship with us on Sundays at 10 a.m. Merry Christmas from the El Montecito Presbyterian Church family!

A special thank you to our musicians and readers!

Daniel DeVorzon, ELMO Choristers, Annie Haugen, Mary Hurt, Emily Sommermann & David Talbott

Readers:

4:00 p.m.

The Bragg Family, Janet Gates, Cor Patterson, Lauri Haugen, Marshall Patterson & Sylvia Hamilton

5:30 p.m.

The Barr Family, Judy Cooper-Ashford, Barney Melekian, Jocelyn Haugen, Susan Dau & Nancy Phinney.

Welcome to El Montecito Presbyterian Church

Welcome Visitors! We are so glad you are worshiping with us today. **Please fill out a visitor card** or email us at admin@elmopres.org if you'd like to receive our weekly e-newsletter. You may connect with us on our website at elmopres.org, on Instagram [@elmopres](https://www.instagram.com/elmopres), or subscribe to our YouTube channel: El Montecito Presbyterian Church. You are welcome to join us for our weekly worship services every Sunday at 10 a.m.



Office hours, Monday—Thursday, 9 a.m.—2 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Tom Haugen, Pastor
Rev. Lauri Haugen, Asst. Pastor to Families
Brad Catron, Facilities Manager
Mary Hurt, Worship Director
Ashley Olsen, Office Manager
Barbara Mendelson, Treasurer
Michele Sullivan, Accountant
El Montecito Early School
Christine Hale, Early School Director
The Entire Congregation, Ministers of the Gospel

805-969-5041

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
Terry Foil
Nathan Gates
Kirk Gilbert
Larry James
Mary Slater

Deacons

Darlene James, Chair
Kersten Barr, Community Life
Judy Cooper-Ashford, Cards & Care Gifts
Susan Dau, Congregational Care, Secretary
Shirley Fender, Joy Reflected Ministry, Ushers
Pamela Gilbert, Receptions, Secretary
Brian Johnson, Receptions
Fran Lambeth, Congregational Care

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

Elders: elders@elmopres.org

Deacons: deacons@elmopres.org

Facilities: facilities@elmopres.org

Prayer Chain: prayers@elmopres.org



1455 East Valley Rd., Montecito
Mailing: P.O. Box 5369,
Santa Barbara, CA 93150
www.elmopres.org

