

# WORSHIP



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

*"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people. Today in the town of David a savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'"*

*Luke 2:10-11*

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## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

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 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

Love

Nathan, Allison, Luka,  
Aliyah, Koa & Kai Lipps

**\*Hymn of Praise**

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

1. Sing we the song of Emmanuel  
This the Christ who was long foretold  
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem  
Promise of dawn now our eyes behold

*Chorus 1*

- God Most High in a manger laid  
Lift your voices and now proclaim  
Great and glorious Love has come to us  
Join now with the hosts of heaven

2. Come we to welcome Emmanuel  
King who came with no crown or throne  
Helpless He lay the Invincible  
Maker of Mary now Mary's son

*Chorus 2*

- O what wisdom to save us all  
Shepherds sages before Him fall  
Grace and majesty what humility  
Come on bended knee adore Him
3. Go spread the news of Emmanuel  
Joy and peace for the weary heart  
Lift up your heads for your King has come  
Sing for the Light overwhelms the dark

*Chorus 3*

Glory shining for all to see  
Hope alive let the gospel ring  
God has made a way He will  
have the praise  
Tell the world His name is Jesus

(REPEAT)

*Bridge*

Gloria Gloria  
Gloria Gloria  
(REPEAT)

## Confession of Sin Unison

Loving and faithful God, in this season of Advent, we celebrate that Jesus has come, and that he promises to come again. Jesus came to bring light and hope, but our hearts are often shrouded by darkness and despair. Jesus came to bring joy and peace, but our hearts are often encased by sorrow and turmoil. Jesus came to bring life and love, but our hearts are often hardened by resistance and contempt. Forgive us, Lord, for these patterns of passionless discipleship. We open our hearts in confession to be cleansed from our sinfulness and to be restored. Give us hearts of great expectation as we wait for the glorious return of our Savior. May we be ever faithful servants as we anticipate the day of his arrival. All of this we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*Take a moment to silently confess your sins, knowing that God hears you.*

## Assurance of Forgiveness

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

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 welcome to give online at our website, or scan the QR code on the back cover. Our tithes and offerings are a continued act of worship and a physical act of trusting 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

### Music of Reflection

#### \*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 are excused to their ELMO Kids classrooms downstairs in the Creative Studios.*

## Prayers for the Church and the World

Janet Gates

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

### \*Hymn of Preparation

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight
2. For Christ is born of Mary  
And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep  
The angels keep their watch of wondering love  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God the King  
And peace to men on earth
3. How silently how silently  
The wondrous gift is given  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven  
No ear may hear His coming  
But in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will receive Him still  
The dear Christ enters in

**Scripture**

Luke 2:1-20

**Sermon**

*"Joy to the World"*

Tom Haugen

*T-coil available for hearing impaired, use channel B. Please see our ushers for more information.*

## GOING IN GOD'S NAME

### \*Hymn of Response      Angels We Have Heard on High

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Angels we have heard on high<br>Sweetly singing o'er the plains<br>And the mountains in reply<br>Echoing their joyous strains     | 3. Come to Bethlehem and see<br>Christ whose birth the angels sing<br>Come adore on bended knee<br>Christ the Lord the newborn King |
| <i>Chorus</i>  |   |
| Gloria in excelsis Deo<br>Gloria in excelsis Deo   | 4. See Him in a manger laid<br>Whom the choirs of angels praise<br>Mary Joseph lend your aid<br>While our hearts in love we raise   |
| 2. Shepherds why this jubilee<br>Why your joyous strains prolong<br>What the gladsome tidings be<br>Which inspire your heavenly song |   |

### \*Benediction

### Postlude

*Thank you to our musicians serving in ELMO's music ministry:*

*Mary Hurt and David Talbott*

**Finance Team Update:** *Thank you for your faithful giving to the flourishing work of God here at ELMO and beyond! Your contributions are greatly appreciated.*

#### **YTD through November, 2024**

Revenue	\$337,948
Expense	(\$400,609)
<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>(\$62,661)</b>

## 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](mailto:admin@elmopres.org) if you'd like to receive our weekly e-newsletter. You may connect with us on our website: [elmopres.org](http://elmopres.org), on Instagram @elmopres, or subscribe to our YouTube channel: El Montecito Presbyterian Church

### ELMO Pres Kids, Youth & College

**Nursery** (ages 0-2.5) & **Preschool** (ages 2.5-5) 9:50 a.m. until end of worship in the Pre-K classrooms. No childcare on December 29.

**ELMO Pres Kids** (K-7th) are dismissed after the Doxology to the Creative Studios. Please pick up your child after worship. Children remain in worship on December 29.

**ELMO Pres Youth Group** (6th-12th): Join us in the Creative Studios on the 1st & 3rd Friday nights of the month from 6-8 p.m. for dinner, games, fun and a deep dive into the Gospel of Luke. Next youth group is January 17!

**College:** Rides from Westmont (pick-up at 9:40 a.m. at Clark Dorm). Campus Bible Study: Westmont Prayer Chapel, Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Contact [tomhaugen@elmopres.org](mailto:tomhaugen@elmopres.org)  
*To sign up for the ELMO Pres Family Newsletter, email [LauriHaugen@elmopres.org](mailto:LauriHaugen@elmopres.org)*

### Caring

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

- Safety for those serving in the armed forces, including Lt. Morgan Hale, U.S. Navy; Lt. Miles Hale, U.S. Army; Lt. Col. James Wentzel, U.S. Air Force, Cpl. Jack Burrows U.S. Army, AE3 Alex Barr, U.S. Navy.
- For our covenant partners dealing with ongoing health issues and recovery from surgeries: Curt & Erlyne Whiteman
- Bereavement for the friends and family of Dan Van Elderen, brother of Darlene James.
- Bereavement for friends and family of: David Grey, husband of Phyllis Grey; Blanche Heitkamp and Marie-Christine Wolseley. Blanche's memorial will be here Saturday, January 11 at 2 p.m.
- Tristan Baker, great-grandson of Bruce Stockin, undergoing treatment for leukemia.

### Triple R Capital Campaign Update

As of December 18, we've raised \$1,562,114 toward our \$1.7M goal! Due to the generosity of an anonymous family at our church, any gift given to the campaign between now and the end of the year will receive an additional \$1,000, up to \$100,000!

## Acts 1:8 Connection: Outreach Ministries

El Montecito Presbyterian Church supports numerous ministries and organizations near and far, including Transition House, providing family solutions for homelessness in Santa Barbara for over forty years. They provide emergency shelter, transitional and permanent housing, homelessness prevention services, and comprehensive programs for children. Pray for this vital local organization in the following ways:

- For God to protect and provide for those on the waitlist as they await housing to be made available.
- For Transition House staff, case managers and volunteers to be guided by God's love and wisdom as they walk alongside and assist those in their various programs.
- Pray that new donors will help fund new rentals as the organization expands their apartment rental space for those graduating from the shelter house.
- Finally, gratitude for the faithful ELMO volunteers who serve dinner monthly (and have for over 40 years!) at their own time and expense, and pray that God's love, grace and joy be evident and transformative to those they serve. There is an opening on the team. If you're interested in joining, contact the office at [admin@elmopres.org](mailto:admin@elmopres.org).

## Connecting & Serving

**Sunday Adult Discipleship Survey of the Old Testament**, ages 13+ welcome. Library at 9 a.m. Suggested donation is \$20. To sign up, email [admin@elmopres.org](mailto:admin@elmopres.org)

**Sunday Adult Discipleship Prayer Workshop:** *"Lord, teach us to pray."* The men who asked Jesus to do this were first century Palestinian Jews. They had been taught to pray from infancy. But when they got around Jesus they sensed that there was so much more to learn about the mystery and miracle of actually conversing with God. In that same spirit, Ben Patterson will be leading a prayer workshop – equal parts instruction and practice – Sundays after worship from 11:30-12:30 p.m. Jan. 19—Feb. 23.

**Prayer Time**, Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

**Women in the Word**, Mondays, 9:30 a.m. Studying Acts.

**Women's Bible Study**, Thursdays, 7:45 - 9 a.m. at IHOP at 1701 State St.

**Men's Bible Study**, Thursdays, 9-10 a.m. in the Library. Studying Ephesians.

**Christmas Eve:** Join us for a Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols at 4:00 & 5:30 p.m. Childcare for ages 0-5 available at both services.

**Church Office closed** December 25-January 3

**De-Deck the Halls**, Dec. 29, following worship, help us put away the Christmas décor.

**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**

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**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](mailto:elders@elmopres.org)

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

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

Prayer Chain: [prayers@elmopres.org](mailto:prayers@elmopres.org)



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