

# WORSHIP



Sunday, December 29, 2024

*"When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour."  
Revelation 8:1*

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## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Welcome to Our Life Together

Kirk Gilbert

Prayer of Invocation

Music of Preparation

## GIVING PRAISE TO GOD

**\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 86

Leader: Hear me, LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

**People: Guard my life, for I am faithful to you; save your servant who trusts in you.**

Leader: You, LORD, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call on you,

**People: Hear my prayer, LORD; listen to my cry for mercy. When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me. Among the gods there is none like you, LORD.**

Leader: Teach me your way, LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name forever..

**All: I will praise you, LORD my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever. For great is your love toward me, you have delivered me from the depths, from the realm of the dead. You, LORD, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.**

**\*Hymn of Praise**

Angels We Have Heard on High

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|--|---|
| 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 |
|--|---|

*Chorus*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 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 heav'nly song |   |

**Confession of Sin Unison**

**Father God, we realize that we are part of your kingdom, that you created us and have a purpose for us. We are sorry that we have become so engrossed with ourselves and our worldly matters. We do not give time to consider why you made us, who we are and that you placed us where we are. We place ourselves in the center of our world and make life all about us; so we feel we can manage life by ourselves and are in control. Forgive us and cleanse us. Help us move from inwardly directed, selfish lives to lives of upward worship and outward love that we were created to live. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

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

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

1 Timothy 2:3-6

God our savior wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people.

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 will remain in the worship service today.*

### **Prayers for the Church and the World**

Terry Foil

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

**\*Hymn of Preparation**      Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence  
And with fear and trembling stand  
Ponder nothing earthly minded  
For with blessing in His hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth  
Our full homage to demand
2. King of kings yet born of Mary  
As of old on earth He stood  
Lord of lords in human vesture  
In the body and the blood  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heav'nly food
3. At His feet the six-winged seraph  
Cherubim with watchful eye  
Veil their faces to His presence  
As with ceaseless voice they cry  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!

**Message for the Children**

Lauretta Patterson

**Scripture**

Revelation 8:1-5

**Sermon**

*"Reversed Thunder"*

Ben Patterson

## GOING IN GOD'S NAME

### **\*Hymn of Response**                      Before the Throne of God Above

1. Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is Love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heaven He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart
2. When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end of all my sin  
Because the sinless Saviour died  
My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the Just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me
3. Behold Him there the risen Lamb  
My perfect spotless Righteousness  
The great unchangeable I AM  
The King of glory and of grace  
One with Himself I cannot die  
My soul is purchased by His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ my Saviour and my God  
With Christ my Saviour and my God

### **\*Benediction**

### **Postlude**

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

*Dana Stewart & David Talbott*

# Welcome to El Montecito Presbyterian Church



**Welcome Visitors!** We are glad you are worshiping with us today.

**Please fill out a visitor card** or email us at [admin@elmopres.org](mailto:admin@elmopres.org) so we may get to know you better and send you our weekly newsletter. You may also connect with us on our website at: [elmopres.org](http://elmopres.org), find us 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) No childcare today.

**ELMO Pres Kids** (K-7th) remain in worship.

**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: Nancy Eaton, 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 Iglesia Presbiteriana, Cristo es el Camino, a congregation led by Pastor Noe Pérez Gómez in the small migrant-farm worker community of Cañon Buena Vista south of Ensenada. In addition to ministering to his congregation, Pastor Noe uses his electrical and plumbing skills to help people in the village, showing them the love of Jesus in tangible ways. Pastor Noe wishes ELMO covenant partners to know how grateful he and his congregation are for our ongoing spiritual and financial support. Please pray for:

- For recovery to good health of a young congregation member undergoing medical treatment.
- For Pastor Noe's father who has suffered from ill health in recent years.
- For spiritual strength as the congregation looks forward to the new year ahead.

### 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:** *"The ultimate interference with the status quo."* That's theologian David Wells' summary of the power and scope of prayer. Nothing new here – believers have known this for centuries and have practiced prayer accordingly. 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. You'll have just enough time after worship to greet friends and grab a cup of coffee!

**De-Deck the Halls, TODAY!** Following worship, help us put away the Christmas décor.

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

**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.

**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)

**Net Income/(Loss)      (\$62,661)**

**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)  
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