

WORSHIP

El Montecito
Presbyterian Church



Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2025

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Welcome to Our Life Together

Tom Haugen

Prayer of Invocation

Music of Preparation

GIVING PRAISE TO GOD

Psalm 98

*Call to Worship

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

The Flanigan Family

***Hymn of Praise**

Joy to the World

1. 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.
2. Joy to the world the Saviour reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy
3. 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.
4. 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.

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

1 John 4:9-10

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

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

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

GIVING OURSELVES & OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

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 in the Creative Studios

Prayers for the Church and the World

Janet Gates

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

*Hymn of Preparation

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels

Chorus

O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

2. Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
O sing, all ye bright
Hosts of heav'n above
Glory to God all
Glory in the highest
3. Yea Lord, we greet Thee
Born this happy morning
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing

Scripture

John 1:1-14

Sermon

"Love Came Down"

Tom Haugen



Sermon notes:

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn of Response

King of Kings

1. In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Chorus

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings

2. To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

3. And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

4. And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

*Benediction

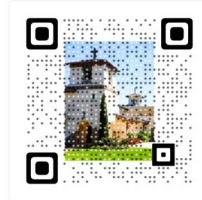
Postlude

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

Mary Hurt & David Talbott

Welcome Visitors! We are glad you are worshipping with us today.

Please scan the QR code to fill out the Connect Form so we may get to know you better and send you our weekly newsletter. Visit our website at: www.elmopres.org, find us on Instagram @elmopres or subscribe to our YouTube channel: El Montecito Presbyterian Church.



ELMO Pres Kids, Youth & College

Nursery (3 mo.-2.5 yrs.) & **Preschool** (ages 2.5-5 yrs.) 9:50 a.m. until end of worship in the Pre-K classrooms.

ELMO Pres Kids (K-7th) are dismissed after the Doxology to the Creative Studios. Please pick up your child after worship.

ELMO Pres Student Ministry (6th-12th) Join us in the Creative Studios for “Friday Nights at ELMO” on the 1st & 3rd Friday nights of the month from 6–8 p.m. Dinner, games, fun and a deep dive into the book of Acts. No youth group on Jan. 2. Next up: January 16!

ELMO Pres College “Catch a Ride” from Clark dorm at 9:35 a.m. Interested in serving and/or discipleship opportunities? Contact laurihaugen@elmopres.org

Please Note Christmas / New Year Schedule:

12/24: Childcare for age 0-5 at 3 pm worship gathering. No childcare at 5 p.m.

12/28: No childcare (nursery & preschool rooms available), elementary students in worship

01/4: Childcare for age 0-5, elementary students in worship

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. In addition, please pray for:

- Safety for those serving in the armed forces, including AE3 Alex Barr, U.S. Navy; Sgt. Jack Burrows, U.S. Army; Lt. Col. James Wentzel, U.S. Air Force.
- For our covenant partners dealing with ongoing health issues and recovery from surgeries: Ann Marie King, Curt & Erlyne Whiteman and Jim Worthen.
- For Imre Patterson, recovery from surgery. Sign-up to bring the Pattersons a meal here: www.mealtrain.com/trains/vd6996
- Bereavement for the family and friends of Shirley Fender.
- Bereavement for the family and friends of Norman Marks, father of Deborah Bertling.
- Bereavement for the family and friends of Jean Svoboda. Her memorial will be January 9 at 11 a.m. at Welch-Ryce, 15 E. Sola St.

Connecting & Serving

Sunday Adult Discipleship, in the Library at 9 a.m. Each week, we will prepare for our worship time and dive into the Scripture passage for our sermon. Everyone is welcome!

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

Women in the Word, Resumes January 5 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our theme continues to be: *God Will Make a Way*, beginning the study on Worship 1/5/26 and Praying the Psalms 3/16/26. Books available for purchase at the door. Please join us for small friendship groups, music with Deborah Bertling and Barbi Wilson. Teaching by Patty Wilson. You can join at anytime. For more information, or to sign up: Call Patty Wilson 805-689-4496 // Text Deborah Bertling 805-698-0952

Women's Bible Study, Thursdays, 7:45-9 a.m. at IHOP on State St., beginning an Intervarsity study of Isaiah. Contact Barb at bkennedy@westmont.edu with questions.

Men's Bible Study, Thursdays, 9-10 a.m. in the Library, studying Romans.

Christmas Eve Choir Practice today following worship.

Christmas Eve Live Nativity Rehearsal TODAY after worship.

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols by Candlelight at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Invite your friends & family to join us to celebrate the birth of our Savior! Live Nativity at 3 p.m.

Church Office Closed December 25—January 4

IMPACT short term mission trip applications due February 1. For more information and to apply, visit <https://www.impact-theglobe.org/>

Connect with our Ministry Partners:

Our ministry partners enjoy receiving encouraging notes.

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

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

Rev. Dr. Tom Haugen, Pastor

Rev. Lauri Haugen, Asst. Pastor to Families

Mary Hurt, Worship Director

Ashley Olsen, Office Manager

Barbara Mendelson, Treasurer

Michele Sullivan, Accountant

El Montecito Early School

Jenny Thompson, Director

The Entire Congregation, Ministers of the Gospel

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Elders

Tom Haugen, Moderator

Janet Gates, Clerk of Session

Erin Barr

Kersten Barr

Kirk Gilbert

Larry James

Leanne Patterson

Deacons

Susan Dau, Congregational Care, Secretary

Terry Foil, Community Life

Pamela Gilbert, Receptions, Secretary

Darlene James, Community Life

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

Prayer Chain: prayers@elmopres.org



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