

# WORSHIP

El Montecito  
Presbyterian Church



Sunday, December 28, 2025

*"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy." 1 Peter 1:8*

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## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Mary Hurt

Welcome to Our Life Together

Tom Haugen

Prayer of Invocation

Music of Preparation

## GIVING PRAISE TO GOD

Psalm 111

### \*Call to Worship

Leader: Praise the LORD. I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

**People: Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them. Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.**

Leader: He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

**People: He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. He has shown his people the power of his works, giving them the lands of other nations.**

Leader: The works of his hands are faithful and just; his precepts are trustworthy.

**All: They are established for ever and ever, enacted in faithfulness and uprightness. He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever - holy and awesome is his name. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.**

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

## **\*Hymn of Praise**

*Good Christian Men Rejoice*

1. Good Christian men rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice  
Give ye heed to what we say  
News, news Jesus Christ is born today  
All that gathered before Him bow  
And He is in the manger now  
Jesus Christ is born today  
Christ is born today
2. Good Christian men rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice  
Now you hear of endless bliss  
Joy, joy Jesus Christ was born for this  
He has opened the heav'nly door  
And man is blest for evermore  
Jesus Christ was born for this  
Christ was born for this
3. Good Christian men rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice  
Now ye need not fear the grave  
Peace, peace Jesus Christ was born to save  
Calls you one and calls you all  
To gain His everlasting hall  
Jesus Christ was born to save  
Christ was born to save

## **Confession of Sin Unison**

**Lord Jesus, if you had not limited all your majestic greatness into the cramped quarters of the human nature, we could not know now the limitless power and privilege of being your children! If you had not come to die, we could never have received eternal life. If you had not been torn, we could never have been mended. Now forgive us for not loving others as you loved us. Forgive us for not quieting the fears of our hearts with the knowledge of how you loved us. Now let us adore the gift of Immanuel, God with us, for he is our hope and our health and our life. Amen.**

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

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

1 Peter 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you.

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

In addition to giving through the passed offering plates, you are welcome to give online at [www.elmopres.org/give-online](http://www.elmopres.org/give-online) or scan the QR code with your phone's camera. Our tithes & 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 & the world.



## 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.**

## Prayers for the Church and the World

Erin Barr

# PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

### \*Hymn of Preparation

*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

#### *Bridge*

Gloria, Gloria  
Gloria, Gloria

## Sermon notes:

"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls." 1 Peter 1:3-9 NIV

"Gratitude and joy are the twin children of grace, organically joined, theologically and spiritually. In the Greek language, they are even related linguistically. Grace, gratitude and joy all have the same root, *char*, a noun that refers to health and well-being. Grace is *charis*, gratitude is *eucharistia*, and joy is *chara*."

What is merely pictured in Greek, is a burning reality in the Kingdom of God. Grace is God's mercy, his unmerited favor. It is what Frederick Buechner calls the "crucial eccentricity" of the Christian faith, the unique and odd thing God does when he forgives sinners – giving them not the bad things they deserve, but the incredibly good things they don't deserve. What else can one be but grateful when this happens? "How can anything more or different be asked of man?" writes Karl Barth. "The only answer to *charis* is *eucharistia*.... Grace and gratitude belong together like heaven and earth. Grace evokes gratitude like the voice of an echo. Gratitude follows grace like thunder and lightning." From "He Has Made Me Glad" - Ben Patterson

"Joy which was the small publicity of the pagan is the gigantic secret of the Christian."  
- G. K. Chesterton

# GOING IN GOD'S NAME

## \*Hymn of Response

### *Living Hope*

1. How great the chasm that lay between us  
How high the mountain I could not climb  
In desperation I turned to heaven  
And spoke Your name into the night  
Then through the darkness  
Your loving-kindness  
Tore through the shadows of my soul  
The work is finished the end is written  
Jesus Christ my living hope
2. Who could imagine so great a mercy  
What heart could fathom such boundless grace  
The God of ages stepped down from glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame  
The cross has spoken I am forgiven  
The King of kings calls me His own  
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever  
Jesus Christ my living hope

### *Chorus*

- Hallelujah praise the One who set me free  
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken every chain  
There's salvation in Your name  
Jesus Christ my living hope
3. Then came the morning that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me

## \*Benediction

## Postlude

### *Living Hope/Angels We Have Heard on High*

### *Angels We Have Heard on High*

### *Chorus*

Gloria, In excelsis Deo

Gloria, In excelsis Deo

1. Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains
2. Shepherds why this jubilee  
Why your joyous strains prolong  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song

## Welcome Visitors!

We are glad you are worshiping with us today. **Please fill out a visitor card or scan the QR code with your phone's camera** to fill out a Connect Form so we may get to know you better. Visit our website at: [www.elmopres.org](http://www.elmopres.org), find us on Instagram @elmopres or subscribe to our YouTube channel. You are welcome to join us for our weekly worship gatherings every Sunday at 10 a.m.



## ELMO Pres Kids, Youth & College

**Nursery/Preschool children** No childcare today. Nursery & preschool rooms are available during today's worship gathering. Sunday program for ages 0-5 resumes next week, 1/4.

**Elementary students** are in worship gathering today & January 4th.

**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](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 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](http://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 Friday, 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 Intersity study of Isaiah. Contact Barb at [bkennedy@westmont.edu](mailto:bkennedy@westmont.edu) with questions.

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

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

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