

WORSHIP

El Montecito
Presbyterian Church



Sunday, January 4, 2025

*"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." Genesis 1:1, 31*

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Welcome to Our Life Together

Tom Haugen

Prayer of Invocation

Music of Preparation

GIVING PRAISE TO GOD

Psalm 19

*Call to Worship

Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

People: Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Leader: The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing to the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

People: The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous.

Leader: They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

All: By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression. May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and Redeemer.

** Please stand as you are able.*

***Hymn of Praise**

Cannons

1. It's falling from the clouds
A strange and lovely sound
I hear it in the thunder and the rain
It's ringing in the skies
Like cannons in the night
The music of the universe plays

Chorus 1

You are holy, great and mighty
The moon and the stars
Declare who You are
I'm so unworthy
But still You love me
Forever my heart
Will sing of how great You are

2. Beautiful and free
The song of galaxies
Reaching far beyond the Milky Way
Let's join in with the sound
Come on let's sing it out
As the music of the universe plays

Chorus 2

You are holy, great and mighty
The moon and the stars
Declare who You are
I'm so unworthy
But still You love me
Forever my heart will sing of You

Bridge

All glory, honor, power is Yours amen
All glory, honor, power is Yours amen
All glory, honor, power is Yours forever
Amen

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 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.



Prayer of Dedication for Our Tithes & Offerings

Kirk Gilbert

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.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

***Hymn of Preparation**

How Firm A Foundation

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

Chorus 1

Lord, in my weakness I lift my eyes
To You, whose goodness surrounds my life
And in my trouble I am secure;
For through my trials your love endures
How sweet and constant is Your promise sure,
Forever steadfast—your holy Word

3. When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.
4. The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

(Repeat Chorus 1)

Chorus 2

Your word brings comfort,
Your word speaks grace,
A faithful witness in every age
Your word restrains us
And set us free,
Your word afflicts us,
Then brings relief
Living and active,
Sharp as a sword,
Your word incarnate
In Christ, the Lord

Scripture

Genesis 1:1-2

Sermon

“In The Beginning”

Taylor Hurt

Sermon Notes:

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

Confession of Sin Unison

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we might delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen

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

Assurance of Forgiveness

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: Hear and believe in the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

The Celebration of Communion

You have an individual prepackaged communion kit. We will eat the bread and drink the cup together as we remember Christ's death and resurrection and celebrate our common union in Christ.

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

The Lord's Prayer Unison

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Hymn of Response**

This is My Father's World

1. This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.
2. This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass;
He speaks to me everywhere.
3. This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: the battle is not done:
Jesus Who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and Heav'n be one.

***Benediction**

Postlude

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

Mary Hurt, Rand Olsen, Cor Patterson, Marshall Patterson & David Talbott

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, 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 (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 in the worship gathering today.

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. Next youth group: 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

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 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 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.

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:

James & Renata Bultema: jamesbultema@spccturkey.com, renatabultema@spccturkey.com;

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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

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The Entire Congregation, Ministers of the Gospel

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Elders

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Erin Barr

Kersten Barr

Kirk Gilbert

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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

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