

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 17, 2023 10 am

ST. DUNSTAN'S

Welcome to St Dunstan's! We are glad you are here!

If you are new, or would like to update your information, please fill out a pew card. Thank you for silencing your cell phones.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The congregation is invited to observe silence during the prelude, out of respect for those who are listening, and as an opportunity for prayer, meditation, and healing.

Prelude: "Come now, Savior of the Gentiles"

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

All stand at the ringing of the bell.

Processional Hymn 65 Prepare the way, O Zion

Bereden väg för Herran

Lighting the Advent Wreath

God of hope, we light this candle as we prepare for the coming of your Son. Awaken our hearts to you this Advent season, so that when Christ arrives, we are ready to receive him with all our hearts, all our minds, and all our strength. **Amen.**

As we prepare to welcome the birth of the Prince of Peace, we hear from the Holy Land that the festive lights that normally shine bright in Bethlehem will not be lit this year in memory of those killed in recent violence. To stand alongside our sisters and brothers in Christ, and all who mourn this Christmas, we now extinguish our second Advent Candle, which will remain unlit for the remainder of Advent and Christmas. Let us offer a silent prayer, before commencing our Song of Praise.

The Song of Praise

Hymn 56 O come, O come, Emmanuel (vss. 5 and 6)

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee O Israel!

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by the drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee O Israel!

The Collect of the Day The people stand or kneel.

- Priest The Lord be with you.
- People And also with you.
- Priest Let us pray.

Lord of light, who sent the Baptist to offer hope and face the world's scorn: open our ears to hear the cries from the margins, exposing our fears, inciting our vision and calling us to a step of faith; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. **Amen.**

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

The principle of justice is to guide the nation of Israel, and they are to understand that it is none other than God who is an advocate for the poor, the oppressed, the downtrodden, and the brokenhearted.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; Veni, veni, Emmanuel

to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zionto give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15 The Song of Mary

Mary offers a song of praise to God who has looked with favor on her and who has lifted up the lowly and brought down the powerful.

The people will sing the refrain and the choir will chant the verse.



Y			•	40	•
2	From this day all generations will		call	me	blessed:
3	He has mercy on		those	who	fear him
4	He has shown the		strength of	his	arm,
5	He has cast down the mighty		from	their	thrones,
6	He has filled the hungry with		good		things,
7	He has come to the help of his .	•	. ser -	vant	Israel,
8	The promise he made		to	our	fathers,
9	Glory to the Father, and		to	the	Son,
10	As it was in the be		ginning,	is	now,

	•			•	•
2 the Almighty has done great things for me, a	ınd holy	is]	his	Name.
3 in	every	gen	-	er	- ation. [Ant
4 he has scattered the	proud in	their	C	con	- ceit.
5 and has	lifted	up	1	the	lowly. [Ant
6 and the rich he has	sent	а	- 1	way	empty.
7 for he has remembered his	. prom -	ise		of	mercy,
8 to Abraham and his	chil -	dren	t	for	ever. [Ant
9 and	to the	Ho	-	ly	Spirit:
10 and will be for	ev -	er.		À	- men. [Ant

Thessalonians 5:16–24

As he concludes his letter to the church in Thessalonica, Paul exhorts the new converts to live joyfully and prayerfully in readiness for the Lord's coming. Although they are to test what they hear, the disciples are to expect to discover the Spirit in prophecy. Trusting in a faithful God, the followers of Jesus are to seek to avoid all forms of evil and to become holy in every way.

> Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

John 1:6–8, 19–28

The fourth evangelist firmly characterizes the mission of John the Baptist: he is the forerunner and witness to the Christ. He bears testimony to the one who is the light of all human life. John is not the Christ or a figure for Elijah or one of the other prophets. He prepares the Lord's way and baptizes, while even now the one whom John is unworthy to serve stands unknown in their midst.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord. 6 People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Christmas Pageant

The Nicene Creed All Stand.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate: he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. Who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People The people stand or kneel.

Leader In joy at the nearness of the Christ, let us offer our prayers to God. May the power of God's holy presence clear a path through the rubble of broken lives and hearts to make our world and each of us a new creation.

With hopeful hearts,

- People We pray to you, O God.
- Leader May our gracious God always console and comfort us, nourish our deepest hungers, and guide us in ways of justice and peace. With hopeful hearts,
- People We pray to you, O God.
- Leader May we find in the deserts of our lives a new Jordan, a stream of blessing that bears forgiveness, refreshment and joy. With hopeful hearts,
- People We pray to you, O God.
- Leader For the people of St. Dunstan's and St. Andre's, for Lucinda our Bishop, and all who do ministry near or far; may the God of John the Baptist raise up holy prophets in our midst, voices to challenge us to greater integrity and truthfulness.

With hopeful hearts,

- People We pray to you, O God.
- Leader Almighty God, source of all wisdom and understanding: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the hearts and minds of those who will choose our next presiding bishop, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for all of your people, equip us for our ministries, and proclaim your word to us and to the world. With hopeful hearts,
- People We pray to you, O God.
- Leader May the God who is our comfort hear the cries of all in need, especially: With hopeful hearts,
- People We pray to you, O God.

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- Leader May the God who is our future hold those who have died in the embrace of faithful love, especially: Together may we see new heavens and a new earth. With hopeful hearts,
- People We pray to you, O God.
- Priest O Emmanuel, God-with-us, You show us the face of divinity, and reveal the fullness of our humanity. Come: Hear our prayers, renew your creation, restore us all in Christ, and enable us to become who we are, your faithful and loving people. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Priest Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

People Most merciful God, we confess 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; We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Absolution

Priest Through the cross of Christ,God have mercy on you, pardon you, and set you free.Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. Amen.

The Peace All stand.

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The people exchange the peace with one another.

Announcements All are seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory Sentence

During the setting of the table a collection is taken to support the life and ministry at St. Dunstan's. The people's offerings of bread, wine and money or other gifts will be brought to the priest. The people stand while the offerings are presented. Offerings may also be made online at www.stdcv.org

Priest Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory Anthem E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him Who freed us from our sins, Who loved us all and shed his blood That we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God, Who was and is and is to come; Sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein. Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, For Christ is coming, is coming soon, For Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, And night shall be no more; They need no light nor lamp nor sun, For Christ will be their All!

Offertory Hymn (Green Hymnal 722) The Desert shall rejoice Sterling The children and their parents are invited to come forward to gather around the altar at this time.

Our Prayers of Thanks

from St. Francis Church, Palos Verdes, CA

- Priest God, through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer. They will become for us spiritual food.
- People We bless God forever.
- Priest God, receive our gifts for the work of your Church.
- People We bless God forever.

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- Priest God, you have blessed us with the joy of families and members of all ages. We thank you that they are with us to gather at your table.
- People We bless God forever.

Priest God is here.

- People We praise God together.
- Priest Let us say thank you to God
- People God has done so much for us.
- Priest O God, you made all things, and you blessed them.
- People You gave us the earth to feed us, the sky to open our hearts, the water for us to drink. You blessed all those who came before us, and you bless us, also.
- Priest When it was time, you sent angels to Mary and Joseph to tell them about having a child, whom they would call Jesus. Jesus would be the Savior of the world. And so we praise you with all the angels as we sing:

Sanctus S130 Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Deutsche Messe





Priest God, you made us, and the world and everything in it. All the good we see comes from you. You have always loved us but people have not always loved you. You sent Jesus to show us how to live and to bring us back to you again.

People Amen. We are alive in Jesus.

- Priest He died for us on the cross so that through your Spirit we can all be your people. And so, with thanks we praise you.
- People Amen. We are alive in Jesus.
- Priest We are here because on the night before he died Jesus shared a meal with his friends. There he took some bread and gave thanks to you, God. He broke it into pieces, and gave it to them. "This is my body," he said.
- People Do this, and know that I am with you.
- Priest Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you. He shared it with them, and said "This is my blood, which brings new life.
- People Do this, and know that I am with you."
- Priest We remember what Jesus has done for us:
- People Jesus died, then was raised to new life by you, and is alive for ever. We are glad to share that life and live in him. Amen. We are alive in Jesus.
- Priest Send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and wine can be for us the body and blood of Jesus, and through this food give us strength to live as your people.
- People Amen. We are alive in Jesus.
- Priest Help us care for your world and for each other in the way that Jesus showed us.

People Help us to love God, love others, serve the world, Until he comes again, with all your people in every time and every land. Priest We worship you and say:

People We praise you. We thank you. We bless you. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Priest And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread.

Fraction Anthem

Frederick Burgomaster

Cantor, then choir and congregation



Priest The gifts of God for the people of God.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who come in faith seeking a deeper knowledge and love of Jesus Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Come forward to receive the bread in your open palm.

If you choose to receive the cup, gently guide the chalice to your lips by touching the base.

At this time, we are not able to allow dipping the wafer into the chalice.

Those who prefer to receive a blessing, or who choose not to receive the cup, may indicate this by crossing their arms over their chest.

If you have a wheat sensitivity, you may ask the priest for a gluten-free wafer. You may have communion brought to your seat by notifying an usher.

Communion Hymn 339 Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

Schmücke dich

The Prayer After Communion

Priest Let us pray.

People God of all Life, we have seen with our own eyes and touched with our own hands the Bread of Life, this precious gift of your Son Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you, in love for one another, and in love for all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Priest May God who was, and is, and is to come meet you in your waiting, shine upon your path, comfort and sustain you until the time when the weary world rejoices. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn 68 Rejoice! Rejoice, believers

Llangloffan

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ. People Thanks be to God.

Postlude "All praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ"

Helmut Walcha

All are welcome to enjoy fellowship with one another outside the church during coffee hour.

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church celebrates God's diverse creation and strives to build an inclusive community that welcomes everyone, no matter age, gender, sexual identity, culture, ethnicity, economic status, or ability.

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Thank you to all of the children participating in the pageant today. And a special thank you to the parents who are participating and to our amazing choir!

Christmas Pageant Cast

Mary—Colette Frieg

Joseph—Harrison Voorhees

Donkey—Cody Voorhees

Cow—Smith Sigler

Shephard—Perry Rosen

Sheep—Liliana Rosen

Camel—Jack Lagier

King—Nathan Lagier

King—Theo Lagier

King—Shepherd Sigler

Dove—Jennifer Lama

Dove—Chloe Lama

Dove—Hazel Lama

<u>Choir</u>

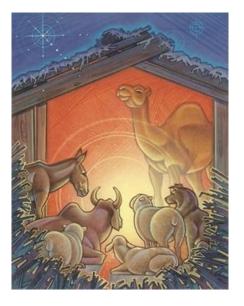
Donkey—Peter Coote

Cow—Cam McAra

Sheep—Mike Cervi

Camel—Pam Austin

Doves—Elizabeth Pasquinelli and Melanie Cervi





Welcome this week's guest organist

Fred Burgomaster Welcome back to St. Dunstan's Fred! Thank you for helping lead us as we worship in song this week.

I-Help next Thursday, December 21st

Look for the Sign-Up sheet on the welcome table to bring in food for the men's dinner on the 21st. We appreciate your contributions!

Thank you from the I-HELP Team

I-HELP - Last Sunday!

Bring some holiday cheer to our I-Help community! We are collecting cash gifts for the men and women in the program. I-Help supports sobriety and the homeless. Look for the info sheet and donation envelopes on the welcome table.



Christmas Poinsettia Dedications

Dedicate a Christmas poinsettia in remembrance of a loved one, to mark an anniversary, or simply to give thanks. Recommended donation is \$20 each. Checks should be made out to St. Dunstan's with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo.

Please sign up on the Welcome Table. The deadline for submissions is December 17th.

St. Andre's Giving Tree!

Please support our feeding program at St. Andre's School in Hinche, Haiti by putting an ornament on our Giving Tree. \$50 feeds a child a hot, nourishing meal every school day for a school year. For many of these children, this is their only meal of the day. The perfect Christmas gift for friends or family--and we have cards to send to tell them of your thoughtful gift. Put a smile on the face of a Haitian child as they sit down to a hot meal-thanks to you!





Thank you to Ann Clarke for providing baked goods for coffee hour this week!

If you would like to host coffee hour on a Sunday please sign up on the Welcome table.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24th - Advent IV One Service at 9am

December 24th - Christmas Eve

Family Service 4pm Choral Eucharist 7pm

No Service Christmas Day

December 31st

First Sunday of Christmas Lessons and Carols One Service at 9am



Dedicate Altar Flowers



This is a lovely and meaningful way to give

Glory to God in celebration of a birthday, or in thanksgiving, or in memory of a loved one. The cost of the flowers is \$30, but some give more. Checks should be made out to St. Dunstan's with "Altar Flowers" in the memo.

Sign up on the Welcome Table.

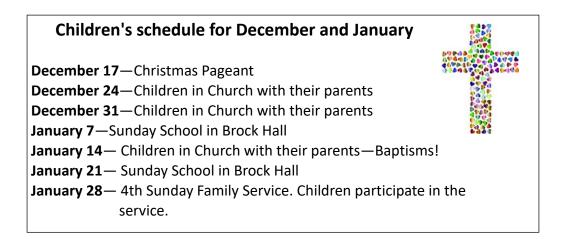
Help us get to know you by Filling out a Pew Card

If you are visiting us, are new to St. Dunstan's, or if your contact information has changed, please fill out a Pew Card and drop it in the collection plate. Thanks!

Pastoral Care & Prayer Requests

For pastoral concerns, contact Rev. Laurel <u>revlaurel@stdcv.org</u> or on her cell 310-562-5746. And you can always leave a message on the Pastoral Care line at church <u>831-624-6646</u> ext 110.

Our Daughters of the King chapter welcomes your prayer requests. Prayer requests may be sent to <u>dok@stdcv.org</u>. The Daughters pray for members of our parish as well as many others daily.



Wonder what's going on at St. Dunstan's?

Sign up today to receive

St. Dunstan's weekly eNews

Getting weekly news, links to sermons, updates, and schedules is as simple as visiting <u>stdcv.org/subscribe</u> and entering your email address.

St. Dunstan's Staff

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Lauren Proulx Leonoff, School Director director@stdunstanschool.org

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St. Dunstan's Vestry



Jack Enbom, Senior Warden Rodger Langland, Jr. Warden Duncan Clarke Tracy Jones George Lockwood Rebecca Miller Susan Pitts Jean Scholefield John Tomlin Michelle Wilsdon

Deadline for eNews, Bulletin

Items for our eNews and Sunday Bulletin should be submitted to stdunstanschurch@gmail.com by midnight Monday.

THIS WEEK AT ST DUNSTAN'S

PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN TUESDAY - THURSDAY 9AM –1PM

Sunday, December 17 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal	Thursday, December 21 4:00pm I-Help Men
 9:00 am Advent Devotional Book Study in Brock Hall 10:00 am Christmas Pageant Holy Eucharist (live-streamed) 11:00 am Coffee Hour 	Friday, December 22 Saturday, December 23 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal
Monday, December 18 Office Closed <u>Tuesday, December 19</u> 9:30 am Discipleship Group 5:00 pm Zoom Compline 7:30 pm AA	 Sunday, December 24 9:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Coffee Hour 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service 7:00pm Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist
Wednesday, December 20 10:00 am Conversation Communion Holy Eucharist 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	The Church office will be closed the week following Christmas, December 25-29.

View the entire parish calendar stdcv.org/calendar

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1—Cindy Poole
- 4—Charlie Rose Talley
- 10—Gus Hawthorne
- 14—Mack Talley
- 16—Bob Young
- 17—Jack Lagier

- 19—Chandler Clark
- 20—Charlotte Cabral
- 27—Perry Rosen
- 28—Andro Vissani
- 30—Elin Rosen
- 22—Jennifer Lama
- 24—Taylor Hawthorne

22—Aleksander Simpson

25—Joanie Webb

Sermon Notes

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