

St Benedict's Episcopal Church

 \sim Tending Mind and Soul in Los Osos \sim

Christmas Eve December 24, 2024 7:00 pm

Our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic condition, or physical or mental ability your presence here today is a blessing!

About Our Service

Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are warmly welcome at St. Benedict's! If you are unfamiliar with the ritual customs of the Episcopal Church, simply rest into the liturgy and let the rest of the congregation carry you in worship.



112 In the Bleak midwinter
101 Away in a Manger
89 It came upon the midnight clear



~ **Prelude** ~ Original Improvisation Paul Burkle

- Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy, and living One.
- People: You come to your people and set them free.

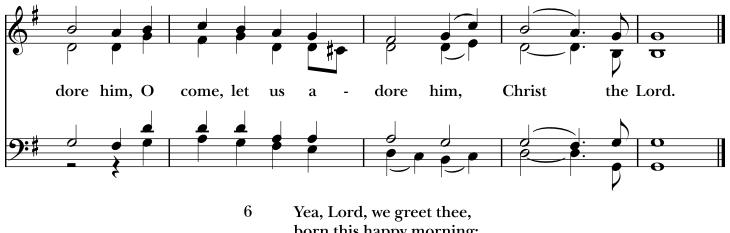
Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: All-compassionate and most merciful God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen. **♪** Hymn #83

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

Blue Hymnal





Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others. Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The *English Hymnal*, 1906.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to use all things for good, to the honor of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. People: Amen

Isaiah 62:6-12

Reader: A Reading from the book of Isaiah

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;

all day and all night

they shall never be silent.

You who remind the Lord,

take no rest,

and give him no rest

until he establishes Jerusalem

and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The Lord has sworn by his right hand

and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain

to be food for your enemies,

and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored;
but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord,
and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.
Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones,

lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion,

"See, your salvation comes;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him."

They shall be called, "The Holy People,

The Redeemed of the Lord";

and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Reader:Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.People:Thanks be to God.

♪ Psalm 97

The Lord is King; let the earth re-joice; * let the multitude of the isles be glad.

Clouds and darkness are round a-**bout him**, * righteousness and justice are the foundations of his **throne**.

A fire goes before **him** *

and burns up his enemies on every side.

His lightnings light up the **world**; *

the earth sees it and is a-fraid.

- The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, * at the presence of the Lord of the whole **earth**.
- The heavens declare his **righteousness**, * and all the peoples see his **glory**.



© 1956, Jerome Webster Meachen.

Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false **gods**! * Bow down before him, all you **gods**.

Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah re-joice, * because of your judgments, O Lord.

For you are the Lord, most high over all the **earth**; * you are exalted far above all **gods**.

The Lord loves those who hate **evil**; * he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand of the **wicked**.

Light has sprung up for the **righteous**, * and joyful gladness for those who are true-**hearted**.

Rejoice in the Lord, you **righteous**, * and give thanks to his holy **Name**.

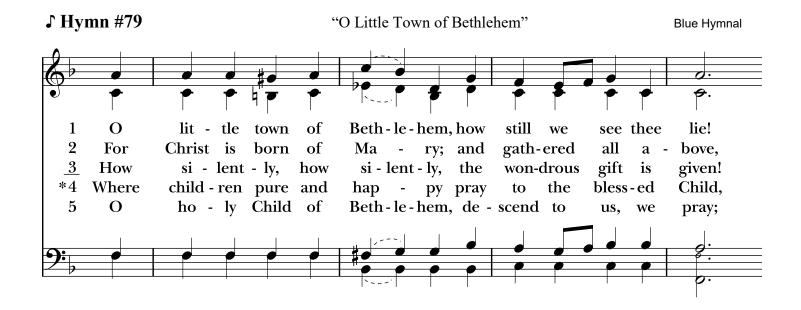


Titus 3:4-7

Reader: A Reading from Paul's letter to Titus

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader:Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.People:Thanks be to God.





Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893). Music: St. Louis, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908).

Luke 2:1-20

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ According to Luke

People: Glory to You, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be

registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

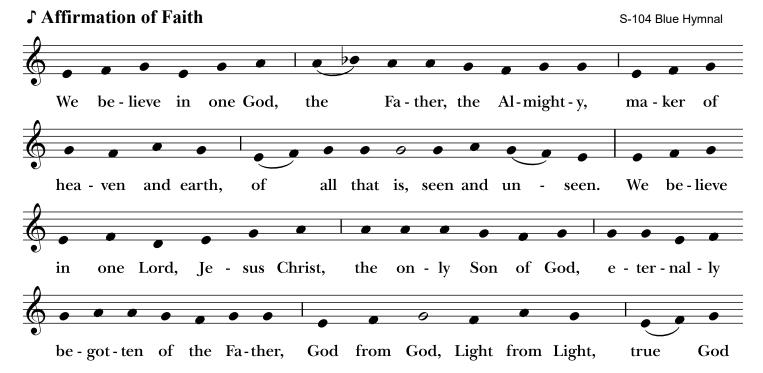
When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ. People: Praise to You, Lord Christ.

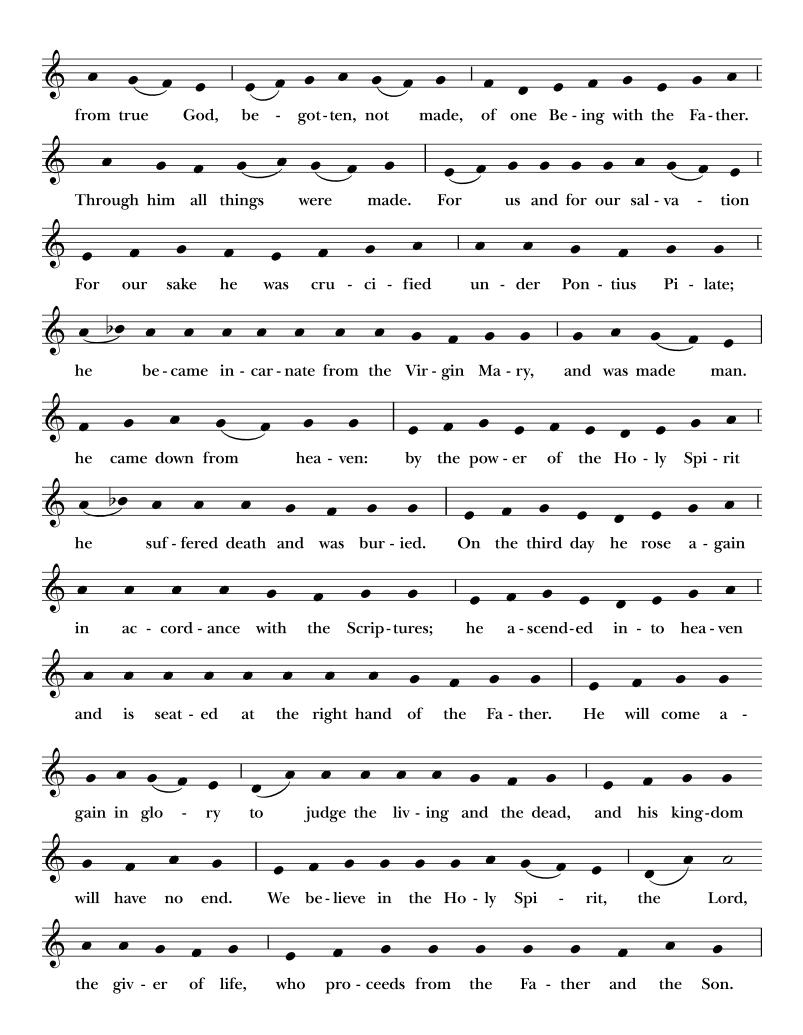
Sermon

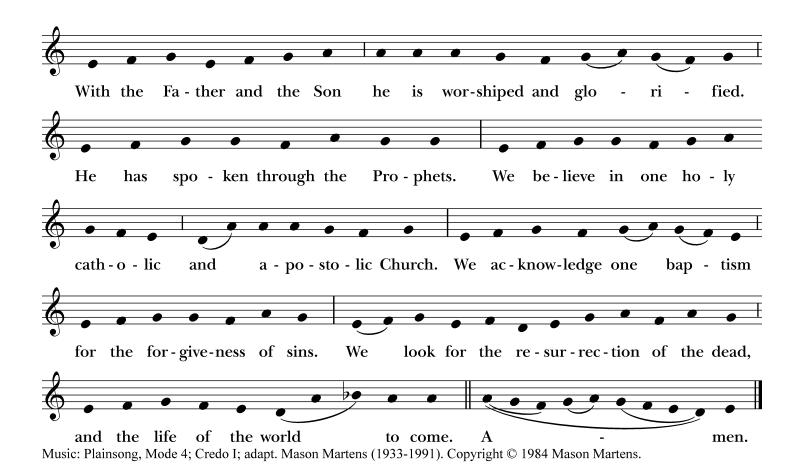
The Rev. Linzi Stahlecker

[We pause for a few moments' reflection before affirming our faith.]



Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.





Prayers of the People

BCP Form I

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to our God, saying "God, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy.*

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy.*

For our Bishop Lucinda and our priest Rev. Linzi, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy.*

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy.*

For this community of Los Osos, for every community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy*.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy*.

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to our God. God, have mercy.

For those who are aged and infirm, for those who are widowed and orphans, and for those who are sick and suffering, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy.*

For those who are poor and those who are oppressed, for those who are unemployed and those who are destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy.*

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy.*

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy.*

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy.*

In the communion of Benedict and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. *To you, O Lord our God.*

Celebrant: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you. People: And also with you.

Please great one another in the chat..

♪ Anthem

"See amid the Winter's Snow"

Music by Timothy Shaw Words by Edward Caswall, 1814-78 The St. Benedict's Singers

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The Offertory

You are invited to make a thank offering, but if you do not contribute financially today please give thanks for God's blessing as the plate is passed. You can contribute at our website www.stbenslososos.org at any time.



♪ Hymn #87

"Hark! The herald angels sing"

Blue Hymnal



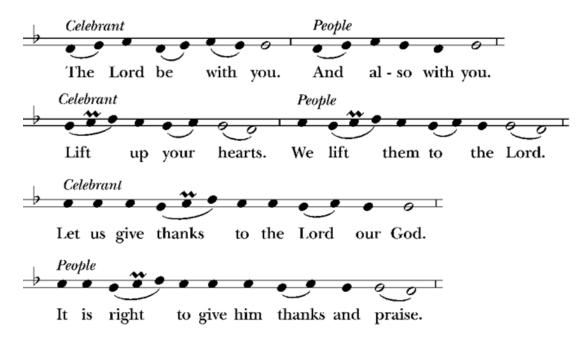


Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915).

♪ Doxology:

[sung] Praise God from Whom all blessings flow Praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia Praise God the Source of all our gifts Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Holy Eucharist



Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Celebrant: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; [Hymn tune #400]

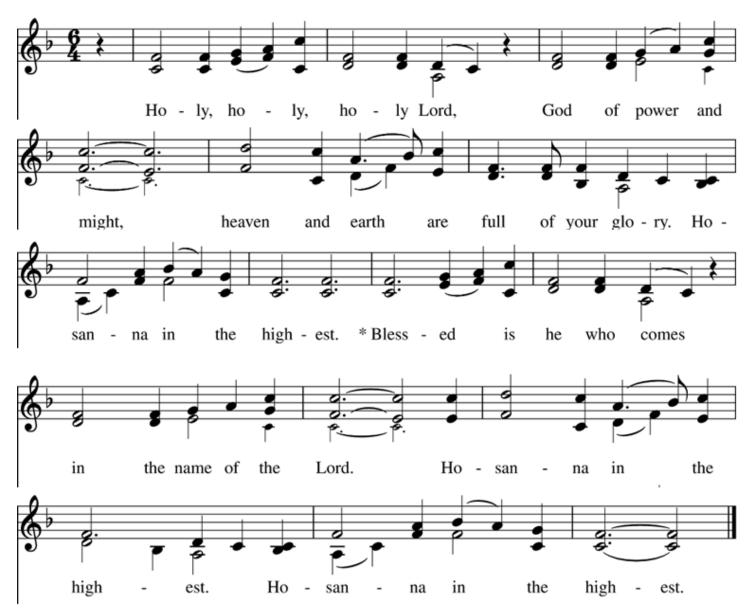
EOW2

earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a parent cares for their children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

♪ Sanctus



WLP 858

Music: American folk melody; arr. Marcia Pruner, harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983).

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

"Take, eat:

This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

> "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

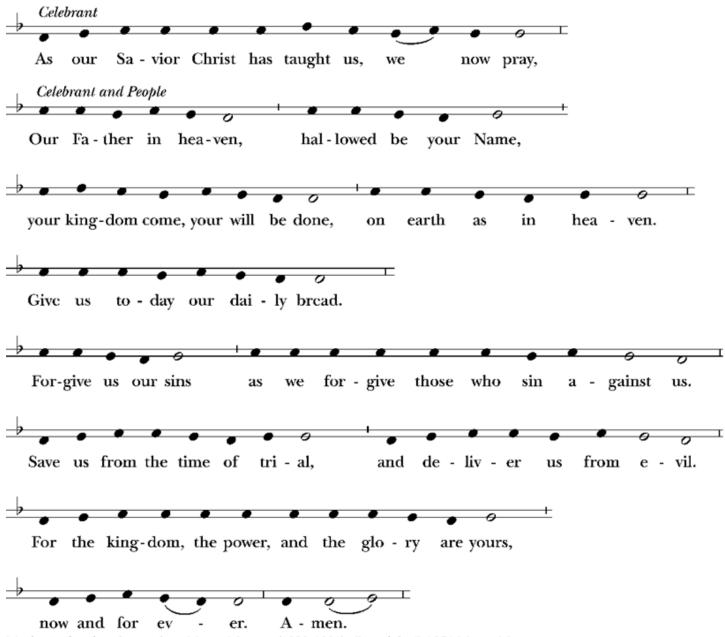
In the fullness of time bring us, with Benedict and all your saints,

from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

All: Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

♪ The Lord's Prayer

S-148 Blue Hymnal



Music: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1971 Mason Martens.

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the Bread

♪ Fraction Anthem



Holy Communion

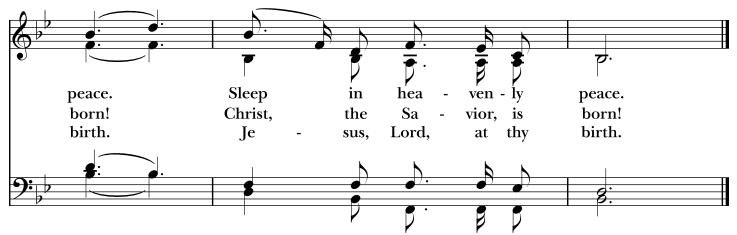
Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

If God is calling you, you are welcome to receive communion when the celebrant invites your section forward. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. As your group is called forward, please spread out to widen the circle and increase safe social distancing.

♪ Communion Music

"The Seven Rejoices of Mary" Traditional English Folk Carol Soloist: Alan Kiste





Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

Silence

Sending of the Eucharistic VisitorIf no visitation is to be made, prayer is not said.

When the Eucharist is brought to people at any place outside our walls, we say the following to send our Lay Eucharistic Visitors or other Ministry team members out with care and blessings.

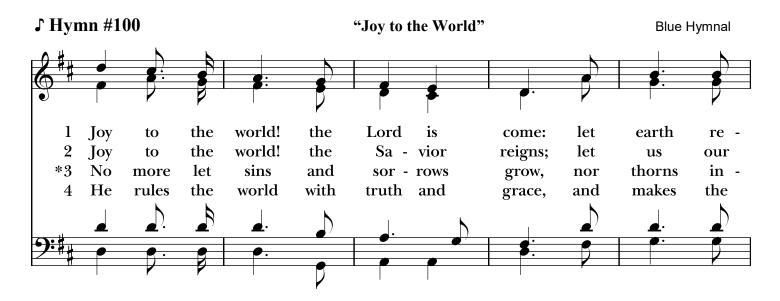
Celebrant: In the name of this parish family, I send you forth, bearing these holy gifts, to _____. Together, we share in the body and blood of Christ. And we who are many are one Body because we share one Bread and one Cup.

All: We who are many are one Body, because we share one Bread and one Cup. Amen

Prayer

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen

Blessing





Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: Antioch, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

♪ Postlude

Original Improvisation Paul Burkle



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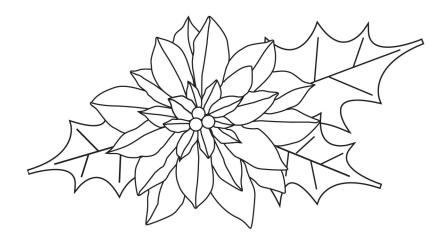
Ministers of the Service

Celebrant: Altar Guild: Eucharistic Minister: Eucharistic Assistant: Lector: Flowers: Usher: Usher: Music:	Rev. Linzi Stahlecker Sarah Chesebro Lisa Gonzalez Sarah Chesebro Sandy Fisher Sharon Porter Alan Kiste Maureen Titus Paul Burkle
Technical:	Hannah Matthews

This Week at St Ben's

Wednesday	Dec 24
10:30a	Christmas Day
	Eucharist Service
12:00p	Light Brunch
Sunday	Dec 29

Sunday 10:30a Dec 29 Eucharist Service



Poinsettia Flowers

In Memory Of:

Wendy Parry Donald Shields Michael & Elizabeth Gonzalez Vickie Gonzalez Jim McShane Dorothy & Harry Richards Wil & Roberta Tufford Dick Kersh Susan Brady Karin Leonard Cake

In Honor Of:

Brian & Alan's Mothers

In Thanksgiving For:

Jo Oliver St. Benedict's Church Rev. Linzi Stahlecker

Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge with gratitude the yak tityu tityu yak tiłhini (ytt) / the Northern Chumash People, and the Salinan Tribe / the T'epot'aha'l, "People of the Oaks," on whose ancestral homelands we gather, and whose vibrant culture continues today. May we always remember that the Earth does not belong to us, that we belong to the Earth, and that we are all relatives in life. Help us to be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world.

Our Mission Statement

St. Benedict's is an inclusive Christian community that celebrates the divine in all beings, and inspires spiritual growth through joyful sacramental worship, loving service, creative expression, thoughtful inquiry, and commitment to social justice.

Our Inclusivity Statement

The people of St Benedict's are called to share God's love as we minister with and to all persons in Los Osos and beyond, providing worship, nurture, fellowship, and service.

Our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic condition, or physical or mental ability.

We embrace and seek to preserve the beautiful, amazing diversity of God's creation. We cooperate in ministry with other local churches and groups of God's people as we participate in the worldwide mission of Christ.



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