

Grace Episcopal Church



Family Christmas Eve Service

4 PM Holy Eucharist

December 24, 2024

1314 Spring Street
Saint Helena, CA 94574
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office@grace-episcopal.org
www.grace-episcopal.org

Opening Hymn

Come All Ye Faithful v.1-3

1982 Hymnal #83

**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.**

Refrain

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**God from true God, Light from Light eternal,
born of a virgin, to earth he comes!
Only-begotten Son of God the Father: *Refrain***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest: *Refrain***

Welcome

The Rev. Amy Denney Zuniga

The people stand

Celebrant Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **AMEN.**

The First Reading

Luke 1 :26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Celebrant The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

Carol

What Child is This?

1982 Hymnal #115

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

Refrain:

**This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.**

**Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. *Refrain***

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him. *Refrain***

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, Creator of the universe, on this night we pray for all the world, that every one of your children may come to know you, to love you, and to live in your peace. **AMEN.**

The Second Reading

Luke 2:1-7

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.

Celebrant The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem v. 1-4

1982 Hymnal #79

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep**

**the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.**

**How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

**Where children pure and happy
pray to the blessèd Child,
where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
where charity stands watching
and faith holds wide the door,
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once more.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, High and Holy One, with whom nothing is impossible: The nations of your world clamor in darkness; enlighten the leaders and peoples of all nations to know you and to love you, in Jesus Christ, your Son. **Amen.**

The Third Reading

Luke 2:8-20

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.

Celebrant The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1982 Hymnal #87

**Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!**

Refrain:

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King!**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain***

**Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! *Refrain***

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, Source of all joy and wisdom, we come before you this night, like the shepherds came to the stable, in awe and delight. Give us grateful hearts so that we may recognize your love and blessing each and every day of our lives. **Amen.**

The Fourth Reading

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Celebrant The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn

Go Tell it on the Mountain

1982 Hymnal #99

Refrain

**Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born**

**While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a Holy light** *Refrain*

**The shepherds feared and trembled
When, lo! Above the Earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth** *Refrain*

**Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born
And brought us all salvation
That blessed Christmas morn** *Refrain*

The Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God of all of Creation
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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. He died for us on the cross so that through your Spirit we can all be your people. And so with thanks, we join with the angels to praise you, singing:

Sanctus

Angels We Have Heard on High v. 1, 4

1982 Hymnal #96

**Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.**

Refrain:

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**See him in a manger laid,
whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love. *Refrain***

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, ‘Do this, and know that I am with you.’ 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. Do this, and know that I am with you.’ And so, remembering Jesus, who died, was raised to new life by you, and is alive forever, we are glad to share that life and live in him and proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

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. Help us to care for your world and for each other in the way that Jesus showed us. Until he comes again, with all your people in every time and every land we worship you in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours, here and everywhere,
now and for ever. Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the king-
dom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Fraction Anthem

The First Noel v. 1-2

1982 Hymnal #109

**The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.
They looked up and saw a star**

**shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. Refrain**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Jesus is our host; all are welcome at God's table. To receive communion, come forward at the usher's instructions and kneel or stand at the altar rail.

You may either hold on to the bread and "intinct" (dip) it into the bowl of wine when it comes to you, or consume the bread and drink from the cup. Communion in one kind (bread only) is a full communion; gluten free wafers are available if needed. If you are unable to come forward and would like to receive communion in your pew, please let an usher know.

Children and infants are welcome to receive communion, either the bread or wine or both, as long as their parents are comfortable. If you or your child prefers to come forward to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest.

Communion Hymn

Silent Night

1982 Hymnal #111

Light your candles from the person next to you; the lit candle should be kept upright so as not to drip wax. Thank you.

**Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

Post-Communion

God of love and life, you have united us with Christ and with each other through this Christmas worship; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world, serve the children whom you create and love, and continue forever in the resurrected life of Christ our Savior. AMEN.

Blessing

Recessional Hymn

Joy to the World

1982 Hymnal #100

**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.**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**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.**

Dismissal

Celebrant

Remembering especially all children, let us go in
peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Christmas Services

Tuesday 12/24

Christmas Eve Worship, *8pm*

Wednesday 12/25

Christmas Sunday Worship, *9am*

Sunday 12/29

First Sunday After Christmas, *9am*



*“We are all meant to be mothers of God...
for God is always needing to be born.”*

— Meister Eckhart

Grace Church Staff

Rector:	The Rev. Amy Denney Zuniga
Bishop-in-Residence:	The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe
Retired Associate:	The Rev. Wendy Watson
Associate Pastor:	Sarah Christopher
Minister of Music:	Ted von Pohle
Facilities Manager:	Sandra Sheffield
Administrative Manager:	Belli Skinner
Controller:	Marshall Cox
Communications:	Ryan Cagle
Livestream Production:	Brian Capener

Grace Church Vestry

Senior Warden:	Genevieve Schlangen
Junior Warden:	Michael Roché
Treasurer:	Phil Baxter
Clerk:	Alexandra Haslip
Mark Linder	John Sales
Braulio Munoz-Matheny	Sue Cottrell
Craig Bond	Edie Kausch

If you would like our intercessors to pray for you or someone else, please call Helen Christianson at 707-963-4157, or email us at Helen@grace-episcopal.org. All requests are kept confidential.