



First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 30, 2025

8:00 AM & 10:15 AM (with music)

Also Live Streaming at

<https://www.facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>

VOLUNTARY

"Sleeper's Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us

J. S. Bach

(Please stand)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Sleepers, Awake!" A Voice Astounds Us

Bulletin Page 16

(Verses 1 & 2)

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed are you, Holy and living One.
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty 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.**

KYRIE (8:00 Service)

Lord, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

Music: *Mass No. 1*, Avon Gillespie

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COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2.1-5

Lector A Reading from Isaiah

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

 the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
 and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

 Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
 to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
 and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
 and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
 and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
 and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
 neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
 come, let us walk
 in the light of the Lord!

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 122

Setting: David York

The choir sings the antiphon once and the congregation repeats. The choir sings the Psalm verses. The choir and congregation then sing the antiphon following each section of verses.



I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem- built as a city
that is bound firmly together. **Antiphon**

To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
as it was decreed for Israel;
to give thanks to the Name of the Lord.
For there the thrones of judgment were set up,
the thrones of the house of David. **Antiphon**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls
and security within your towers. **Antiphon**

For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say,
"Peace be within you."
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek your good. **Antiphon**

SECOND READING

Romans 13.11-14

Lector A Reading from the Letter to the Romans

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

(Please stand)

SEQUENCE HYMN

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

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(Congregation sings vv. 1, 2 & 3, the Gospel is read, then vv. 4 & 5 are sung)

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 24.36-44

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

(Please be seated)

SERMON

The Rev. Michael K. Fincher

(Silent reflection)

NICENE CREED *(Please 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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Please stand or kneel)*

Presider People of God, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. Let us pray to the Lord saying, "Teach us your ways, O God, that we may walk in your paths."

Wake from sleep, O God, your Church. Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us live honorably as salvation draws ever nearer.

(Silence)

Teach us your ways,

O God, that we may walk in your paths.

Wake from sleep, O God, this nation. May we beat our swords into plowshares, and our spears into pruning hooks. May we learn war no more.

(Silence)

Teach us your ways, O God,

That we may walk in your paths.

Wake from sleep, O God, your creation. May the mountains rise to meet you and the crops of the fields burst forth in praise.

(Silence)

Teach us your ways, O God,

That we may walk in your paths.

Wake from sleep, O God, this city. May there be peace and prosperity within our walls. Make clear our paths that we may walk in your light.

(Silence)

Teach us your ways, O God,

That we may walk in your paths.

(Silence)

Teach us your ways, O God,

That we may walk in your paths.

Wake from sleep, O God, those in pain and sadness. Deliver them from their darkness that they may rejoice in your light. May all those waiting for healing find your salvation is near. Please add your own prayers now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

(Silence)

Teach us your ways, O God,

That we may walk in your paths.

Wake all your people from sleep, O God. Prepare your saints for that day when the Son of Man will return with the saints at rest, to reign with us forever and ever. Please add your own prayers for the departed, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

(Silence)

Teach us your ways, O God,
That we may walk in your paths.

Presider Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Presider Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

God of all time,
we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us.
We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace.
In your mercy forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure
until Christ comes again in glory.
Amen.

Presider Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In ✠ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

(Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL BLESSINGS

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer: Watch over your *children*, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Savior of the Nations, Come

Georgeann Toole

Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's Son, make Earth your home,
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

You, the chosen Holy One,
Have o'er death the victory won.
Boundless shall your kingdom be;
When shall we its glories see?

From the Godhead forth you came
And return unto the same,
Captive leading death and hell
High the song of triumph swell!

Brightly does your manger shine,
Glorious is its light divine.
Let not hate o'ercloud this light;
Ever be our faith so bright.
(Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th c.)

PRESENTATION HYMN

He Came Down

Cameroon Traditional



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

At the 8:00 Service:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

At the 10:15 Service:

Sanctus

Missa Emmanuel, Richard Proulx

mp
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

mp
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho-san-na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

mp
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho-san-na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

(A period of silence is kept after the Celebrant breaks the host)

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

AGNUS DEI *(Sung by the Choir)*

David Clark Isele

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

The Presider says the following or a similar invitation

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.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at this Altar. Holy Communion will be distributed from a single Communion Station at the foot of the chancel steps. The Ushers will release people by row to receive Communion. **Gluten free wafers are available upon request.***

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Those who are participating in the live streamed service and therefore not able to receive communion may wish to say the following prayer in recognition that the desire to receive communion carries the same spiritual benefits of actually consuming the consecrated elements.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: "This is my body; this is my blood — given for you." Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Jean-Philip Rameau

Daisy Santos, soloist

Brianna Zucker, flute

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

COMMUNION HYMN

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

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POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ in our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ADVENT SEASONAL BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Soon and Very Soon

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THE DISMISSAL

Presider Go in peace to prepare the way of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us

Paul Manz

*If you choose to leave during the Voluntary, please do so quietly,
out of courtesy for those staying to listen.*

FLOWERS TODAY ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

and

*In honor of my loving wife Anita's birthday
by Jim Perreten*

and

*In memory of Jana Holmes
by Susan Fawson*

**Please join us in Francis Hall for refreshments and fellowship
following the worship service**

(Francis Hall is out the main church doors and to the left)

TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	<u>8:00 SERVICE</u>	<u>10:15 SERVICE</u>
Presider and Preacher	Fr. Michael Fincher	Fr. Michael Fincher
Music Director	—	David York
Crucifer	—	David Luebben-Morrill
Lector	Holly Graham	Alice O'Keefe
Lay Eucharistic	Holly Graham	Carol Bernstein
Ministers (LEMs)	David Luebben-Morrill	Dorothy Edwards

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PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 61

"Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us

Wachet auf

(Verses 1 & 2)

1 "Sleep - ers, wake!" A voice a - stounds us, the
 2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her
 3 Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let

shout of ram - part - guards sur - rounds us: "A -
 heart with joy - ful hope is spring - ing, she
 saints and an - gels sing be - fore you, as

wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!" Mid - night's peace their
 wakes and hur - ries through the night. Forth he comes, her
 harps and cym - bals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the

cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum - mons clear - ly spo -
 Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in truth vic - to -
 ci - ty's por - tals: through them we stream to join the im - mor -

ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!
 rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.
 tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.

Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in
 Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate
 No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -

sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and
 Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and
 light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to

has - ten there, that you the wed - ding feast may share."
 heed your call to come in - to the ban - quet hall.
 greet our King; for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 73

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

St. Stephen

(Congregation sings vv. 1, 2 & 3, the Gospel is read, then vv. 4 & 5 are sung)

1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
 2 Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, to
 3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
 4 and let the end - less bliss be - gin, by
 5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and

1 light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the
 2 bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glo - ry
 3 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing
 4 wear - y saints fore - told, when right shall tri - umph
 5 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy

1 east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 2 like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
 3 of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;
 4 o - ver wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled.
 5 peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of kings.

COMMUNION HYMN

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Keep Your Lamps



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
 2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
 3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
 4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
 mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
 morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
 lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
 lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
 soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
 trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.

Refrain



Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al-most done.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Soon and Very Soon

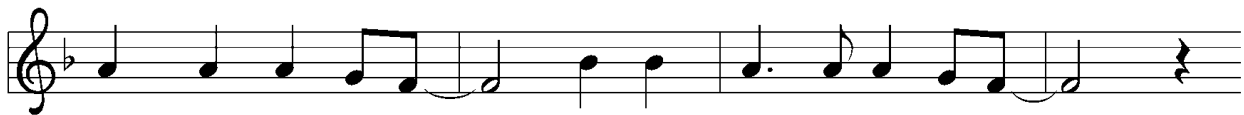
Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

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THIS WEEK AT ST. GREGORY'S

Tuesday, December 2

Centering Prayer at **6:30 PM** on Zoom. Contact Fr. Michael for access information.

Thursday, December 4

Holy Eucharist and Healing Service at **10:00 AM** in the Chapel.

Bible Study at **11:00 AM** in the Fireside Room.

Choir Rehearsal at **7:30 PM** in the Choir Room. Contact David York for more information.

Sunday, December 7 – Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist (spoken) at **8:00 AM** in the Church.

Sunday School

Seniors (ages 11 to 18) at **9:30 AM** in the Youth Room.

Juniors (ages 8 to 10) at **10:15 AM** in the Youth Room.

Beginners (ages 5 to 7) at **10:15 AM** in the Youth Room.

Holy Eucharist (with music) at **10:15 AM** in the Church and live streamed on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>).

Nursery Care is available on Sundays, starting at 7:45 AM, in the Nursery (Room 3)

Evening Prayer (Tuesday through Thursday)

Evening Prayer: Tuesday through Thursday at **5:00 PM** on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>).

For Evening Prayer, you will need either a Book of Common Prayer or you can download the Evening Prayer liturgy and the Psalms for the week from the St. Gregory's website (www.stgregoryschurch.com).

Texts of Sunday sermons are available on our parish website, at
<http://stgregoryschurch.com/sermons-archive/>

SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL SERVICES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE

Sunday, December 14 – A Service of Lessons & Carols for Advent

This traditional service of readings and music is inspired by services held at King's College, Cambridge for over 100 years. Stories from biblical prophecies foretelling the birth of Christ are interspersed with familiar Advent hymns and carols. St. Gregory's Choir sings music by G.F. Handel, John Gardner, and Richard Shephard. **Note that on this day we only have one service at 10:15 AM.**

Sunday, December 21 – Music at Four: International Christmas Celebration 2.0

Carols and stories from near and far will be sung by St. Gregory's choir, soloists and instrumentalists. Join us for a parish Christmas dinner following the concert.

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Christmas Carols and Anthems at 6:30 PM

Choral Christmas Eve Service with Holy Eucharist at 7:00 PM.

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist at 10:00 AM.

Sunday, December 28 – First Sunday after Christmas

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 AM.

Holy Eucharist at 10:15 AM.

Sunday, January 4 – The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 AM.

Holy Eucharist at 10:15 AM.

To make secure, online donations to St. Gregory's, simply scan:



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Up Close and Classical Concert: Up Close and Classical presents string quartets by Haydn, Schubert, and Stravinsky on Sunday, November 30th at 4:00 PM at St. Gregory's. Free Admission. More information is available at <https://upcloseandclassical.org>.

Holiday Gift Card Drive: On behalf of the outreach team and the loving recipients of our gift card drive, I thank you for your generosity of \$4,035 in gift cards for nine families from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. Additional cards and groceries from our Food Bank were delivered on Tuesday, November 25.

United Thank Offering (UTO) Ingathering: November is a month of sharing our abundance with others such as family, friends and our community as we begin our UTO ingathering this month, please remember that UTO grants often focus on urgent human needs meaning your individual gratitude gift helps racial reconciliation efforts, to end poverty and so much more. The ingathering will continue until **Sunday, December 7th**. Please give generously.

Christmas Flower Donations: Christmas is just around the corner! If you would like to make a donation to help offset the cost of the wreaths and poinsettias, you can do so by sending a check to the church with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo line. Or you can go through the parish website or the Vanco app and use the Other Designated Gift category (just be sure to put Christmas Flowers in the adjacent box). And if you would like to make your donation in Memory of, in Thanksgiving of, or in Honor of someone, you can call the parish office or send an email to info@stgregoryschurch.com with the appropriate information. We need dedications no later than **Tuesday, December 16th** to get information into the Christmas Eve bulletin. Poinsettias will be available for pick-up after Christmas. More on that down the road.

Christmas Music Donations: A lot of special music is planned for the upcoming weeks leading up to Christmas. If you would like to help offset the expenses for the wonderful musicians that will be joining us for the season, please send a check to St. Gregory's with "Christmas Music" as the memo line. You can also donate on our website using the Vanco app. Click the "Other Designated Gift" category, putting "Christmas Music" in the adjacent box. We thank you for your support of our wonderful music ministry!

Annual Reports: With the New Year rapidly approaching, it's time to start thinking about our Parish Annual Meeting, scheduled for Sunday, February 1st (more to come on that). In preparation for the Annual Meeting, we will need to produce the Annual Report. All persons responsible for a ministry program in the Parish (you know who you are) should submit written reports of the year's activities to the Parish Office no later than **Wednesday, January 21st**. Reports need to be in Word or Word-compatible format and emailed to the Parish Office at info@stgregoryschurch.com. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Stitches of Faith: Are you looking for a space to share your creativity, enjoy fellowship, and be inspired? Stitches of Faith is a gathering for anyone who loves to craft—or wants to learn! Whether you knit, crochet, quilt, paint, or want to try your hand at another craft, this group is open to all skill levels, including beginners eager to discover something new. We meet on

Sundays from 1:00–3:30 PM in the Conference Room. Each week, we will enjoy time for projects, encouragement, and conversation in a relaxed, faith-filled environment. Light refreshments will be provided. Bring your supplies, your curiosity, and your kind spirit. Come create, connect, and grow in community with us!

Lend a Hand: Like any older building, St. Gregory's constantly needs maintenance and touching up. Fred Cornett has made up a list of things to do in the near future: Cleaning and arranging the janitor's closet and the storage areas, cleaning the trash cans, etc. Many hands make light work, and most of the jobs won't take much time if two or three people join in. There is a signup sheet in the narthex, and Fred is always available for consultation or questions: (562) 308-6955. Thanks, Fred, for getting the projects going!

Altar Flower Donations: Need a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one or friend? Make a flower donation. There is a flower donation chart located on the Narthex wall that you can use to sign up for special dates to donate altar flowers. Simply fill out a donation form attached to the bottom of the chart and return the form to the Parish Office. Payment for flowers can be made by check or online at <https://stgregoryschurch.com/4721-2>. Make sure you specify your donation is for Altar Flowers. The Altar Guild thanks you.

Episcopal News Updates: The Diocese provides weekly email updates to help you keep informed about what's happening all over our six-county diocese. If you want to receive the Episcopal News, visit <https://diocesela.org/episcopal-news/contact/> and enter your email address in the box provided.

Feed My Lambs and Food Bank: THANK YOU for your generosity and your donations. Here's the latest news on our parish feeding programs.

- **Feed My Lambs**
 - **Homemade cookies can be dropped off any time.** Please put your homemade cookies in Ziploc Bags and label them with the date and "FML" (this way we know they are for Feed My Lambs and not other purposes).
 - **Please do not bring hardboiled eggs.** Due to issues with eggs, we now have a dedicated team responsible for providing hardboiled egg.
 - **Volunteers** – If you are interested in helping out Feed My Lambs, contact Tamera Benedict at (tlbenedict4@gmail.com, 562.301.6800).
- **Food Bank** The Food Bank relies on your financial support and appreciates all donations of funds or non-perishable food items. We also can use more volunteers at:
 - Bagging and distribution the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month from 8:30 to 11:00 AM
 - Any other time you may have available and could assist with assembling our bags (e.g. on Sunday before or after service, or any time the office is open for access)Please contact the Parish Office (info@stgregoryschurch.com, 562.420.1311) or Bill Eldon (billeldon@gmail.com, 562.234.9920) for more information about the Food Bank.

Your continued support of our feeding ministries, through product and monetary contributions, is greatly appreciated!

Gratitude for Your Support of the Parish: We continue to be humbled and so incredibly grateful for your generosity in supporting our parish and its ministries! While you may not be able to drop your donation in a real offering plate, there are still ways you can make sure your donation gets to the parish:

- You can mail your check to the parish office.
- Make donations through our online payment account, accessible through the parish website at <http://stgregoryschurch.com/4721-2/>.
- Scan the QR code found in the Sunday bulletin.

And again, THANK YOU for your continued support!

Parish Directory: Our online parish directory is at <https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/>. This is a secure site and can be accessed using the email address you had published in the parish directory. You can also download the “Instant Church Directory” on your smart phone. Versions are available for Android, iPhone, iPad, and Kindle.

One Body & One Spirit Annual Appeal: The Diocese has established an ongoing campaign focused on raising funds to assist congregations, schools, affiliated institutions, and their communities who are faced with unprecedented challenges. We are invited to prayerfully consider making a donation to help others in our Diocese who may have unmet needs. More information is available at <https://diocesela.org/annual-appeal/>.

Forward Day By Day: For those who use the Forward Day By Day booklet for personal devotions and need the newest edition mailed, please contact Kevin at 562-420-1311 or info@stgregoryschurch.com.

In Case of Emergency . . . Notify Your Priest! In the event of a hospital stay, illness, death in the family, or other pastoral emergency, please call Fr. Michael on his cell phone (909-373-6478). And PLEASE, no excuses about not wanting to bother me. That’s why we are here – for YOU!

PRAYER LIST

Lydia Gibbs, Suzan Laverty, Martin Nemitz, Ferdinand Gonzalez, Patrick McDonough, Mike Laverty, Mother Beryl, Scott Morgan, Fran Luebben-Morgan, Harold Peacock, Rudy Revell, Jared Baker, Kimberly Bouzguenda, Shannon Romano, Ralph Tesla, Anne Cantrell, Matt Burger, Kathy Edwards, Darlene Feit-Pretzer, Keeley Gilmore, Betty Peacock, Maria White, Laura Mae Harper, Elizabeth Laursen, Eric Kela, Dodie Martin, Savannah Jimenez, Martha Wong, Joanne Paine, Jonah Culbert, Carlos Cruz, Alexis Cattivera and Family, Sean Wood, Marina Tesla, Jim Perreten, Nancy Luebben, Diane Duacsek, Michele Morrill, Kira Dirghalli, Edith Finney, Paige Hardin, Marty Wong, Dominic Ginder, Miriam Edwards, Charles H. Parks, Perry Nelson, Nellie Bell, Ernie and Vickie Morrison, Alison and Mick, Phyllis Comiskey, Marie Romer, Brett W., Roberto Villanueva, Adan Murillo, Val Kela, Michael Hipsman, Trisha Cookmeyer, Sally Blevins, Sue Davis, Jack Alt

Note: Unless we are aware of on-going concerns, names only stay on the Parish Prayer List for a month. If names need to be re-added, please notify the Parish Office.



ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6201 E. WILLOW STREET, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90815
562-420-1311 WWW.STGREGORYSCHURCH.COM

WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!

St. Gregory's is a warm and caring community of families and singles, young and old, committed to sharing the good news that Jesus is the Lord of all life. We are an Episcopal Church, having members from all backgrounds and religious traditions, many of us had no church involvement before coming here. We want to offer to you the same welcome and friendship that were extended to us when we came to St. Gregory's.

ST. GREGORY'S MISSION STATEMENT

God has called us into Christian community and gifted us for ministry:

To worship and glorify God
To transform faith into action
To share the love of Jesus Christ

The Right Reverend John H. Taylor
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

The Reverend Michael K. Fincher, Rector
rector@stgregoryschurch.com

David York, Music Director & Organist
york1635@aol.com

Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-12:00pm, Tuesday – Thursday