



Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 7, 2025

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

Also Live Streaming at

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

VOLUNTARY

Pastorale on "Sleepers Wake! A Voice Astounds Us"

Wayne Wold

CHORAL INTROIT

Come, O Come, Lord Jesus

Johann Rudolf Ahle

Come Redeemer of the earth, Holy Jesus.
Manifest Your holy birth, Loving Jesus.
Heav'nly gift of greatest worth, Blessed Jesus.
Come, O Come, Lord Jesus.

Dayspring of the world draw near, Holy Jesus.
Bless us with your Advent here, Loving Jesus.
Daystar in our hearts appear, Blessed Jesus.
Come, O Come, Lord Jesus.

(Please stand)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

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OPENING ACCLAMATION

<i>Presider</i>	Blessed are you, Holy and living One.
<i>People</i>	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.

KYRIE (10:15 Service)

Avon Gillespie

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.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11.1-10

Lector A Reading from Isaiah

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72

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.



Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
That he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice. **Antiphon**

Then the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.
He shall defend the needy among the people;
He shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor. **Antiphon**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth. **Antiphon**

In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
and from the river to the ends of the earth. **Antiphon**

SECOND READING

Romans 15.4-13

Lector A Reading from the Letter to the Romans

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in

order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

(Please stand)

SEQUENCE HYMN

People, Look East

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3.1-12

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to

him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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 remain standing or kneel)*

Presider Friends, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. Let us come before the Lord praying, "Blessed are you, Lord God; May the earth be filled with your glory."

Grant your Church, O God of encouragement, to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that we may glorify you with one voice. Make us a people of repentance and bless us with your Holy Spirit and fire.

(Silence)

Blessed are you, Lord God;
May the earth be filled with your glory.

Grant this nation, O God of justice, the will to defend the needy and the poor. May we sincerely hope for that day when hurt and destruction are no more.

(Silence)

Blessed are you, Lord God;
May the earth be filled with your glory.

Grant your creation, O God of faithfulness, the hope of renewal. May we who are stewards of this earth also live at peace with all you have created.

(Silence)

Blessed are you, Lord God;
May the earth be filled with your glory.

Grant this city, O God of understanding, prosperity. May all the people know and do justice. We ask that you teach us and our leaders the best ways to meet the needs of all our neighbors.

(Silence)

Blessed are you, Lord God;

May the earth be filled with your glory.

Grant all the needy, O God of steadfast love, your mercy. Prove yourself to be a God of righteousness and faithfulness. To all their pain and suffering bring your healing and peace. And with your winnowing fork clear from their lives all the forces of oppression. I invite your prayers of petition and thanksgiving, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

(Silence)

Blessed are you, Lord God;

May the earth be filled with your glory.

Grant to those who have died, O God of hope, eternal life in you. Bring the departed into your glorious dwelling where all their hope will be filled in your Christ. I invite your prayers for the departed, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

(Silence)

Blessed are you, Lord God;

May the earth be filled with your glory.

Presider Holy One who bids John cry out in the wilderness, seeking justice and promising forgiveness, draw us ever closer to you as we seek to make a pathway in this world for the coming of your love and mercy. **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

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Heinrich von Herzogenberg

A rod shall come forth from the stem of Jesse
A branch shall come from out its roots;
The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the spirit of wisdom and truth.

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
to show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior,
When half spent was the night. (German, 15th 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

<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>People</i>
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.	
<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>People</i>
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.	
<i>Celebrant</i>	
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	
<i>People</i>	
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 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

Hark! A Herald Voice is Calling

Richard Shephard

Dylan Wicks, Jordan Tickner, soloists

Hark, a herald voice is calling;
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day."

Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines up on the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from
heav'n;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiv'n.

So when next He comes with glory,
Shrouding all the earth in fear,
May He then as our defender,
On the clouds of heav'n appear.

(Latin, 6th c.)

COMMUNION HYMN

O Day of Peace that Dimly Shines

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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

Prepare the Way, O Zion

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THE DISMISSAL

Presider Go in peace to prepare the way of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. S. Drummond Wolff

St. Gregory' Brass: Michael Canzoneri, John Kagy, Craig McKnight,
Casey Ramsdell, Ellen Ramsdell, Jordan Tickner, Dylan Wicks

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

FLOWERS TODAY ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

and

By Susan and John Mora

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

	8:00 SERVICE	10:15 SERVICE
Presider and Preacher	Fr. Michael Fincher	Fr. Michael Fincher
Music Director	—	David York
Crucifer	—	David Luebben-Morrill
Lector	Dana Lindsay	Dave DeMent
Lay Eucharistic	Dana Lindsay	Cheryl Rodi
Ministers (LEMs)	David Luebben-Morrill	Elizabeth Spencer

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

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PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 76

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Winchester New

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

SEQUENCE HYMN

People, Look East

Besançon

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



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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COMMUNION HYMN
Hymnal 1982, Hymn 597

O Day of Peace that Dimly Shines

Jerusalem

Introduction



1 O day of peace that dim - ly shines through all our
2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the

hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice, truth, and
fierce de - vour the small; as beasts and cat - tle calm - ly

love, de - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of
graze, a lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e -

hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re -
mies shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac -

lease, till by God's grace our war - ring world shall see Christ's
cord; the hope of peace shall be ful - filled, for all the

1 *Interlude*



prom - ised reign of peace.
earth shall know the (Lord.)

Final Ending



Lord.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 65

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Bereden väg för Herran



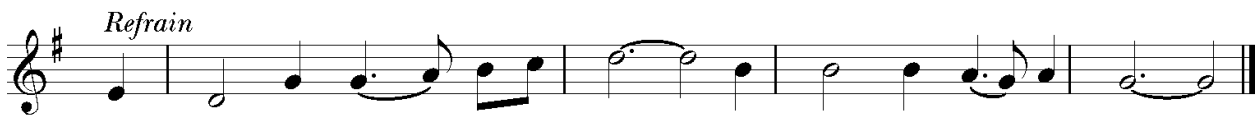
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Refrain
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

THIS WEEK AT ST. GREGORY'S

Tuesday, December 9

Funeral for Walt Gupton at **11:00 AM** in the Church. Reception will follow.

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

Thursday, December 11

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 14 – Third Sunday of Advent

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.

Advent Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist at **10:15 AM** in the Church and live streamed on the St. Gregory's Facebook page

(<https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>). *Note that on this day we only have one service at 10:15 AM.*

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).

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Christmas Dinner: Our annual Parish Christmas Dinner will be held on **Sunday, December 21** at about 5:00 PM (following the Music at Four concert). Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. You can also notify the Parish Office by calling 562.420.1311 or by email to info@stgregoryschurch.com. Please RSVP by **Wednesday, December 17** so Diane and her kitchen crew will know how much food to prepare.

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 the Parish Office 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, Shizuka Yoba, Craig Wong, Rosalind Walters

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