



# ***Fourth Sunday of Advent***

***Sunday, December 21, 2025***

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

***Also Live Streaming at***

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

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## **VOLUNTARY**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Settings by Michael Costello, Charles Callahan

*(Please stand)*

## **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanzas 1—5)

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## **OPENING ACCLAMATION**

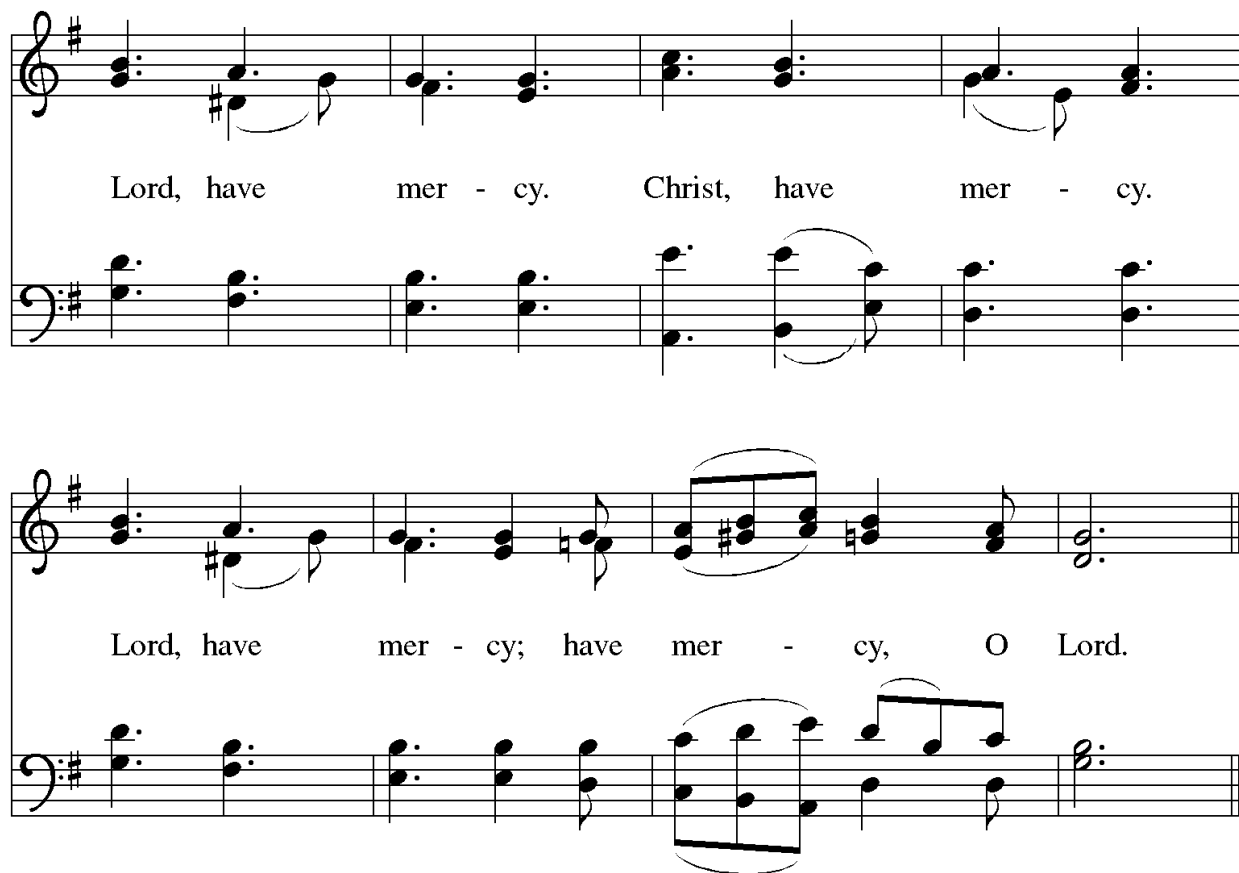
*Presider*      Blessed are you, Holy and living One.  
*People*        **You come to your people and set them free.**

## **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.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 7.10-16

*Lector*            A Reading from Isaiah

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

*Lector*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 80.1-7, 16-18

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.*



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.  
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us. **Antiphon**

Restore us, O God;  
let your light shine upon us, and we shall be saved.  
O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume  
when your people pray?  
You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink. **Antiphon**

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your light shine upon us, and we shall be saved.  
Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made strong for yourself.  
And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.  
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. **Antiphon**

## SECOND READING

Romans 1.1-7

*Lector*            A Reading from the Letter to the Romans

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Lector*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

## SEQUENCE HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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*(Congregation sings all 4 verses, then the Gospel is read)*

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1.18-25

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

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*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* Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us appeal to the Lord praying, “Restore us, O God of hosts; Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.”

We ask you, O God, to bless your Church. Give us your grace. Stir up your strength and come to help us even as we declare the gospel concerning your Son.

*(Silence)*

Restore us, O God of hosts;

**Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

We ask you, O God, to bless this nation. May our leaders not trust in their own strength but in you, O God of hosts. Teach us to refuse the evil and choose the good.

*(Silence)*

Restore us, O God of hosts;

**Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

We ask you, O God, to bless this planet. By your creative power bring forth new life in the places in which we have reaped too much or sown too little.

*(Silence)*

Restore us, O God of hosts;

**Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

We ask you, O God, to bless our city. Let your hand be upon us. Guide and strengthen all those who find themselves in difficult situations—especially young and single parents.

*(Silence)*

Restore us, O God of hosts;

**Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

We ask you, O God, to bless all those who are distressed. Hear their prayers, O Shepherd of the flock. May they take comfort in the knowledge that you are with them. Please offer your own prayers of intercession silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

*(Silence)*

Restore us, O God of hosts;

**Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

We ask you, O God, to bless all who have died. Welcome into your heavenly kingdom all who are called to be saints. Please offer your prayers for the departed, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

*(Silence)*

Restore us, O God of hosts;

**Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

*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

Ave, Ave the Angel Sang

Robert Lau

O lowly maiden, O blessed woman,  
you have been chosen to bring us the king.  
Peace be with you, O fairest holy one,  
Mary, mother, child of God.

*Ave, ave, ave Maria,  
Ave, ave the angel sang.*

Fair one so gentle, filled with the Spirit,  
you will bear Jesus, the Savior for all.  
Don't be afraid now, God's love surrounds you,  
Mary, mother, child of God.

What will you call him, O lovely maiden?  
Rulers and nations will bow at his name.  
Let all creation give thanks for the holy one:  
Jesus, Savior, child of God.

### 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 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

Ave Maria

Franz Schubert

Brianna Zucker, soloist

Hail Mary  
Full of grace,  
The Lord is with Thee  
Blessed art Thou amongst women,  
And blessed is the fruit  
of Thy womb Jesus.

By the Creator, Joseph was Appointed

David York

Andrea Hilliard, Dylan Wicks, Jordan Tickner, soloists

By the Creator, Joseph was appointed  
spouse of the Virgin, guardian of the Incarnate;  
he by his caring ministered to Jesus,  
source of salvation.

Christ in whose presence hosts of hell must tremble,  
Ruler of all things, Lord of earth and heaven,  
Monarch of monarchs, to his earthly father  
freely was subject.

To God eternal be all praise and glory,  
who to Saint Joseph gave supernal honor;  
grant that we also may like him be faithful  
in our obedience. (Hieronimo Casante)

## 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**

Blest Be the King Whose Coming

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## **THE DISMISSAL**

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

*People*         **Thanks be to God.**

## **VOLUNTARY**

Noël for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Alexis Chauvet

*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 loving memory of Eleese Inge and Willie Bernstein on their birthdays  
by Alvin and Carol Bernstein**

**and**

**In honor of the marriage of Jordan and Kelsey Tickner  
by the St. Gregory's Choir**

**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	Kris Brooks	Michael Johnston
Lay Eucharistic	Tamera Benedict	Fran Luebben-Morgan
Ministers (LEMs)	Holly Graham	Carol Bernstein

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

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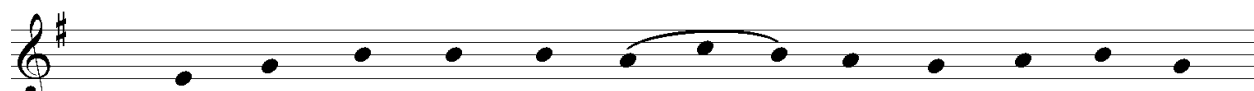
# PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 56

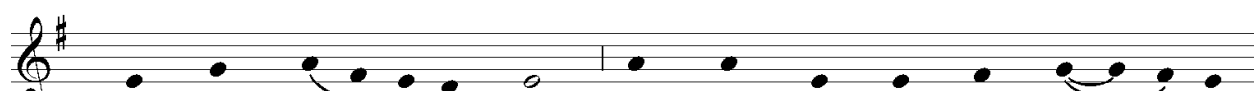
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel


(Stanzas 1—5)




(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to  
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.  
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.



## SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 66

Come, Thou Long-Expected

Stuttgart

*(Congregation sings all 4 verses, then Gospel is read)*

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first four verses of the hymn. The second system contains the continuation of the hymn, starting with the words 'from our fears and sins'. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with each line of music corresponding to a line of text. The score includes a treble clef and a bass clef, and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**  
Hymnal 1982, Hymn 74

Blest Be the King Whose Coming

*Valet will ich dir geben*

*Descant*

3 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of

1 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of  
 2 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of  
 3 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of  
 4 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of

God! He on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of

God! For him let doors be o - pened, no hearts a - gainst him  
 God! By those who tru - ly lis - ten his voice is tru - ly  
 God! He on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of  
 God! He of - fers to the bur - dened the rest and grace they

God. All power is his, all glo - ry! All

barred! Not robed in roy - al splen - dor, in  
 heard; pi - ty the proud and haugh - ty, who  
 God. All power is his, all glo - ry! All  
 need. Gen - tle is he and hum - ble! And

things are in his hand, all a - ges and all

power and pomp, comes he; but clad as are the  
 have not learned to heed the Christ who is the  
 things are in his hand, all a - ges and all  
 light his yoke shall be, for he would have us

peo - ples, till time it - self shall end!

poor - est, such his hu - mil - i - ty!  
 Prom - ise, who has a - tone - ment made.  
 peo - ples, till time it - self shall end!  
 bear it so he can make us free!

## ***THIS WEEK AT ST. GREGORY'S***

### **Sunday, December 21**

**Music at Four: International Christmas Celebration 2.0 at 4:00 PM.** 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.

### **Tuesday, December 23**

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

### **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 (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)***

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

**Annual Reports:** With the New Year rapidly approaching, it's time to start thinking about our Parish Annual Meeting, scheduled for Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> (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 21<sup>st</sup>**. Reports need to be in Word or Word-compatible format and emailed to the Parish Office at [info@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto: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. In addition to your support, we are pleased to announce that St. Gregory's has been awarded \$1,000 from the Long Beach Food Access Fund in support of our feeding programs. We have also received 170 prepackaged boxes of nonperishable food from the Los Angeles Area Food Bank.

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 Tamara Benedict at ([tlbenedict4@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@stgregoryschurch.com), 562.420.1311) or Bill Eldon ([billeldon@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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, Linda Elliott, Ron Dixon, Darryl Takaki

*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](http://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](mailto:rector@stgregoryschurch.com)

David York, Music Director & Organist  
[york1635@aol.com](mailto:york1635@aol.com)

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