

St. Ambrose Episcopal Church December 15, 2024 The Third Sunday of Advent

900 Edgewater Blvd Foster City, CA 94404

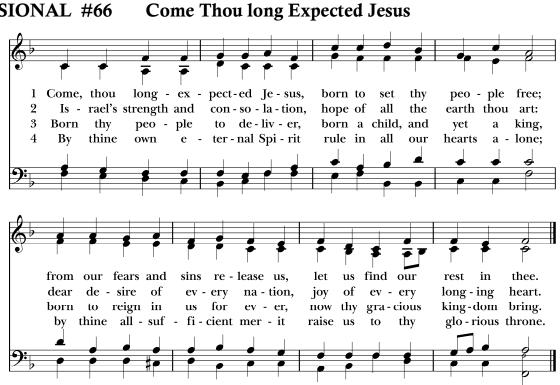
(650) 574-1369 - office@stambrosefostercity.org - http://www.stambrosefostercity.org Priest-In-Charge • pastoral calls and emergencies The Rev. Rebecca Goldberg 650 291-5289 revrebecca@stambrosefostercity.org

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE: Nutcracker Suite

PROCESSIONAL #66

Tchaikovsky



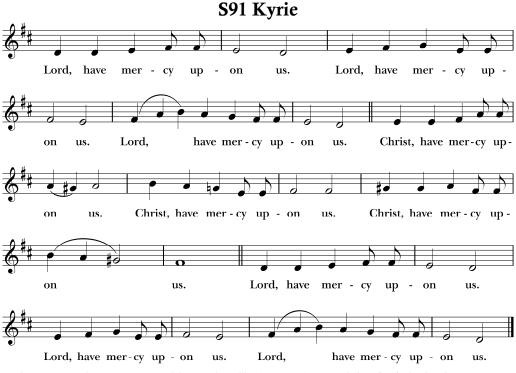
Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: Stuttgart, melody from Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesange, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

Opening Sentences

Celebrant: Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever, Amen. People:

The 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



Music: From Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

Third Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: "Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, and the third candle is JOY."

The candles are lit.

The Rev. Matthew Kozlowski (please credit)

Scripture: "Isaiah 55:12 – You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."

Prayer: "Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.. *People:* And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Lesson Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

Canticle 9 Page 86, BCP

The First Song of Isaiah Ecce Deus

Isaiah 12:2-6

I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure	 And on that day you shall say, * Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; Make his deeds known among the peoples; * see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
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Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, * and this is known in all the world. Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, * for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen

Second Lesson Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

People: Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn Celtic Alleuia



Music ${\ensuremath{\mathbb C}}$ 1985, 1996, Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Holy Gospel Luke 3:7-18

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.*People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do

likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn Celtic Alleluia

Sermon

Reverend Rebecca Goldberg

THE NICENE CREED

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.

The Prayers of the People

Form III

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; *That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; *That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; *That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; *That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest. *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen*.

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

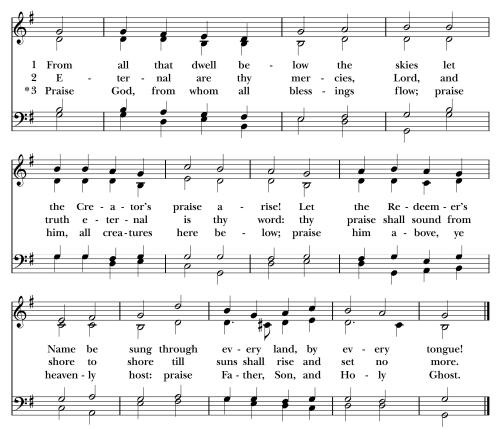
Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you. *People* **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: Nativity Carol

John Rutter

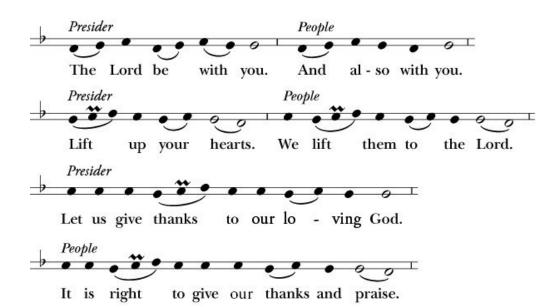
Doxology

Hymn 380 From All That Dwell Below the Skies Verse 3



Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711). Music: Old 100th, melody from Pseaumes octante trois de David, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?).

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

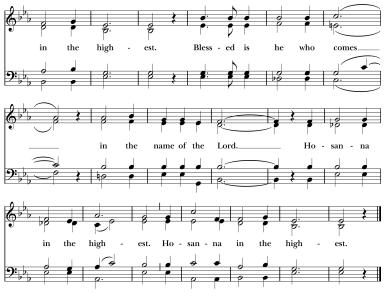
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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:

Celebrant and People

THE SANCTUS \$130





Music: From Deutsche Messe, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Then the Celebrant continues

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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,

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

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 St. Ambrose and St. Francis, 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 say, As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

FRACTION ANTHEM S164



Music: From Deutsche Messe; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Invitation

COMMUNION HYMN #814 Taste and See



Post communion Prayer

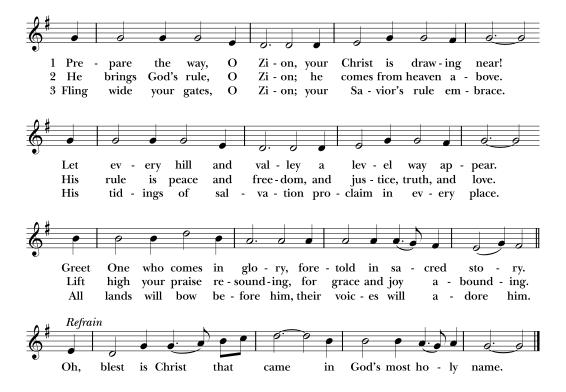
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

The Blessing

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk the way with us. So be swift to love and make haste to be kind. The Blessing of God: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you always. **Amen**

RECESSIONAL #65 Prepare the Way O Zion



Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

THE DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE Organ Improvisation *All music reprinted with permission—One License # A*—72047

The Mission of St. Ambrose Church of Foster City

Is to proclaim the Good News of God in Jesus Christ as we care for each other and our larger community. We worship in the Episcopal and Anglican tradition, extending an open and inclusive invitation to all people, welcoming children into our church family and serving those in need.

Worship Leaders: Reverend Rebecca Goldberg Amanda Yuxin Dai, Music Director

Worship Leader Rota:

Mary Loretta Davila, Lighting Advent Candle & Reading Janis Horne, Intercessor Warren Wong, Lectors Eucharistic Minister Usher Alison LeBlanc, Livestream Technician

Next Week's Scripture Lessons

Micah 5:2-5a Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45, (46-55) Canticle 15 (or 3) *or* Psalm 80:1

Presider	Date
Reverend Rebecca Goldberg	Sunday. December 15, 2024
Reverend Rebecca Goldberg	Sunday. December 22, 2024
Reverend Debra Low-Skinner	Sunday. December 29, 2024
Reverend Rebecca Goldberg	Sunday, January 05, 2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Waiting in Hope: The Season of Advent

The four Sundays of Advent are a time of waiting and expectation for the coming of Christ among us at Christmas. The readings, the sermon, and the music will focus on preparing ourselves for the Advent of the Holy One in our own hearts. We will light a candle on our Advent wreath each Sunday, as a sign of the Light coming among us. The color of the vestments and altar appointments are blue, signifying royalty. During this approaching winter season, with the colder, shorter, darker days, let us slow down, wait in the stillness, and make ready for the joy of Christmas!

Dorothy Matsuo

Dorothy Matsuo is recovering well and is now at Los Altos Subacute and Rehab Center, 809 Fremont Ave. Room 315 Los Altos, CA. Visits, and cards are welcome. Please keep her and the Matsuo family in your prayers.

Advent Study- Practicing Peace with all your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind

The Diocese is offering this Zoom Study on **Mondays Dec 16**, and 23, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Come join us as we look at the practice of peace in a divided world, and enter a season in which we find much joy, and yet, stress and sadness for some. There is a book which accompanies the course, which you can download for free. I would encourage you to participate. If you receive the weekly diocesan news email, the information about the course, how to register, and download your free copy of the book we are using is there. If not, you can find it on the diocal.org web site. If you are unable to access it, please see Mother Rebecca, and she can help you get signed up.

Christmas Eve Service

On Tuesday, December 24 we will have a festival choral Holy Eucharist at 5:00. It will be preceded by a presentation of vocal pieces offered by the Star Valley Choir at 4:40. In addition to an anthem offered by the St. Ambrose Adult Choir, children from the Sunday School, Sea Breeze, and the community will present songs at the Offertory. All are warmly welcomed, so come and worship with us and celebrate the coming of Christ in our midst!

There will be no liturgy on Wednesday, December 25.

Catholic Charities Christmas Drive

We are partnering with Sea Breeze school to help families in need in our community. St. Ambrose has been asked to help with teenagers. They need teen hygiene items. Please bring women and men's shampoo, and deodorant, and hygiene products for the young women. There is a box in the Narthex for the collection of these items.

2025 Stewardship Campaign

If you missed our Stewardship Ingathering on 11/24, it is not too late to submit a pledge of your time, talent, and treasure for 2025. You can mail in or bring in the pledge card you were sent, or if you did not receive one, there are extra ones in the Narthex. Thanks to those who have already pledged. We give thanks for God's abundance in our midst! **If you would like to use 2025 pledge envelopes, please contact the office**.

A Special Invitation for Children this Christmas Eve

St. Ambrose Episcopal Church Sunday School children will be singing some familiar Christmas songs as part of our service at 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve. We invite all children to participate. There will be minimal rehearsal time. If your out- of- town guests have brought their children, they are also most welcome! If you would like to sign any children up to participate, or have any questions, please contact Kay Ballantyne (650)773-7972 (rose466@earthlink.net)

Epiphany Adult Formation Course on Episcopal Church Beliefs and Practices

During the Epiphany Season, Mother Rebecca will be offering a course on the faith of the Episcopal Church. We will be using the excellent book, "Walk in Love—Episcopal Beliefs and Practices," by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shoe. In this class we will reflect upon the teachings of the Church regarding the Scriptures, the sacraments, the marking of time, salvation, grace, and how we can grow as disciples as we seek to live out the Gospel in the world. The class will meet in person, and will run from January 19 through March 2, on a day and time to be determined. A sign-up sheet, which includes possible time slots, is in the Narthex. A copy of the book will be provided for each participant. This class is for everyone who wants to learn, grow, and deepen in his or her understanding of the faith, and especially for newcomers to the Episcopal Church, and those preparing for confirmation. If you have any questions, please see Mother Rebecca.

Annual Christmas Cookie Sale- December 15

This year, the Altar Guild invites everyone to join our beloved bake sale tradition. On **December 15th***, we welcome bakers and/or buyers to contribute 2-4 dozen holiday cookies or treats (non-perishable only, please) for our festive coffee hour. Enjoy filling holiday boxes with 18 delightful cookies, available for \$20.00 per box. Payment can be made by cash or check.

*Please drop off your cookies on December 14th by 1pm at the parish hall or kitchen.

Get Ready for a Joyful Christmas Event!

Join us for a heartwarming evening of caroling at senior and residential homes in Foster City!

When: Friday, December 20th

Time: 4:00 pm (meet at St. Ambrose parking lot)

Who: Everyone's welcome!

Let's all join some of the members of the choir to spread the cheer!

We'll bring festive holiday spirit to those who need it most. Your voice, your smile,

and your presence will make a difference in the lives of our neighbors!

Questions? Reach out to: Dulce (650-918-8691) or Mother Rebecca

Questionable Text/Emails

There is a text and scam email that is circulating, signed Rev. Rebecca Goldberg, which requests a copy of the Church directory. Please delete it. None of the St. Ambrose or Sea Breeze staff will send you an email asking you to divulge personal information, or contribute funds to a questionable cause. Please let Mother Rebecca know if you have any questions.

Mother Rebecca's office hours

Mother Rebecca will be in her office on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:30-4:30. She can be reached during office hours at 650-574-1369. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call 650 291-5289 revrebecca@stambrosefostercity.org

Coffee Hour

Join us for Coffee Hour after the service at 11:00 am in the parish hall. Please volunteer to contribute (cakes, cookies, finger food or sandwiches) by using the link below or by the signup sheet in the Narthex by the Reflections & Gratitude Board: <u>Sign Up Genius https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4FA5A82CA0F94-coffee1</u>

Worship Leaders Needed

Please sign up as a Lector for our 10:00* am Eucharist by emailing <u>office@stambrosefostercity.org</u> or the Church signup sheet. We also need Worship Leader volunteers for our 10:00* am Eucharist.

There are openings for Intercessors, Lectors, Greeters, Ushers and Acolytes, and Livestream Technicians. Contact us at <u>office@stambrosefostercity.org</u> or use the following link to signup: <u>Signup</u> <u>Genius</u> or Click on the following link <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4FA5A82CA0F94-worship</u> **No 8:30am service at this time*

Sunday School 10 AM

Sunday school is at 10:00am every week Please contact Raphael Gerber <u>raphaele.gerber@gmail.com</u> and Kay Ballantyne is <u>rose466@earthlink.net</u>

<u>Rides for Gene Hetzer</u>

Gene Hetzer a longtime church member and Karl his guide dog need rides on an alternating basis from church members. Please contact Jim Neubert to schedule a day for driving.

Bible Study

Every Tuesday at 1:00pm, we meet for Bible Study on Zoom and discuss the Scriptures for the upcoming Sunday Service. Join us! For questions, please contact Daniel Tate at 650-799-7084, or <u>dtate@ses.cdsp.edu</u> or Warren Wong at <u>wwong@nd.edu</u>

Contemplative Meditation

Every Wednesday 10am-11am we meet for Contemplative Meditation on Zoom. We read a variety of authors. We have read Jimmy Carter's book 'Faith'; a couple of prayers from Jean-Pierre Isbouts 'Ten Prayers That Have Changed The World'. We are currently reading David Brooks' 'How to Know a Person...' If interested, please contact Hamilton Fong. <u>hfongster@gmail.com</u>

Prayer Support Group

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday after the service at 11:30am, we will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall to have a prayer meeting. Please join us any time as you are able. For questions, please contact Daniel Tate at 650-799-7084, or <u>dtate@ses.cdsp.edu</u>

Praver list: We pray especially for Renee Sheldon and family, Darren Su, Stephen, Carol Frisch and the Frisch family, Yvonne Sidell, Jerelyn Weber, Charlene Adolph, Miles Martin, Barbara Milligan, Ed Avakoff, Max Gumbert, Isabella, Jerry Boykin, Carol Newman, Clara Padilla, Arjun Katyan, Janet Mc Annally, Elliott Dun, Alison LeBlanc, Peggy Chapman, Ronnie Rosen, Leo Gauthier, Alice Deckel, and the pupils and staff of Sea Breeze School.

For those who have died: Veneranda Ramirez, Arthur Labrador, Buck Schott, Ercira Puig, Zaw-Sing Su, Mike Frisch, John Miller, Eva Rios Chong, Judi Guilford, John David Tate, Martin Gardiner *[Please contact the parish office to add any names of the sick and suffering to be prayed for in our monthly cycle of prayer.]*

The Altar Flowers are given by

The Altar Guild to the Glory of the Lord

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Nellie Wong -December 16 Lydia McIntyre – December 18 Grant Cherrington – December 19



COOKIES!



Season's Greetings: Join Us for a Christmas Eve Celebration!



The St. Ambrose Sunday School children will be singing familiar Christmas songs at our-5:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.

All children are welcome to participate—whether they're part of our Sunday School or visiting with family! Minimal rehearsal time required.

> Sign Up or Ask Questions: Contact Kay Ballantyne € (650) 773-7972 ₩ rose466@earthlink.net

🛓 GET READY FOR A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS EVENT! 🍐



Join us for a heartwarming evening of caroling at senior and residential homes in Foster City!

- When: Friday, December 20th
- 🔯 Time: 4:00 PM (Meet at St. Ambrose parking lot)
- **Who:** Everyone is welcome!

Let's come together with members of the choir to spread holiday cheer!

Bring your voice, smile, and presence to brighten the lives of our neighbors.

Your participation will make a difference!

? Questions? Contact Dulce at 650-918-8691 or Mother Rebecca.