

St. Ambrose Episcopal Church

December 22, 2024 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

900 Edgewater Blvd Foster City, CA 94404

(650) 574-1369 - <u>office@stambrosefostercity.org</u> - <u>http://www.stambrosefostercity.org</u>

Priest-In-Charge • pastoral calls and emergencies The Rev. Rebecca Goldberg 650 291-5289

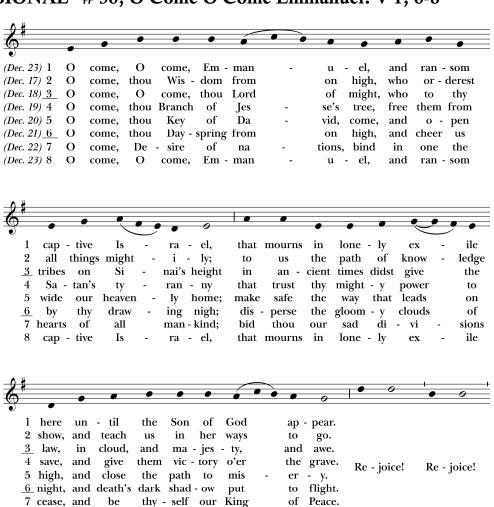
<u>revrebecca@stambrosefostercity.org</u>

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE: Nutcracker Suite

Tchaikovsky

PROCESSIONAL #56, O Come O Come Emmanuel. V 1, 6-8





ap - pear.

God

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

Son

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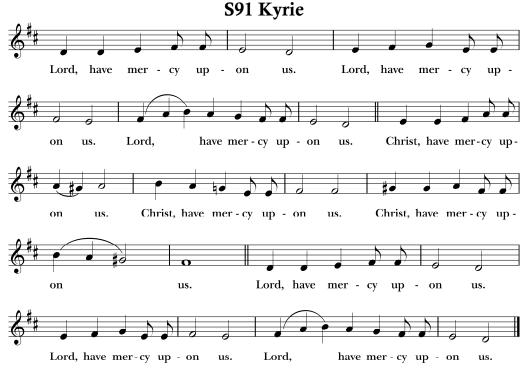
Opening Sentences

Celebrant: Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever, *Amen*.

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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

The candles are lit.

The Rev. Matthew Kozlowski (please credit)

Scripture: "John 13:34 – Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Prayer: "Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we

may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. Amen."

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: 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**

First Lesson Micah 5:2-5a

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7

Qui regis Israel

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; * shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, * stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
 how long will you be angered
 despite the prayers of your people?
 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
- you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, * and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Lesson Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

People: Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn Celtic Alleuia

CELTIC ALLELUIA



Music © 1985, 1996, Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Holy Gospel Luke 1:39-55

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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.

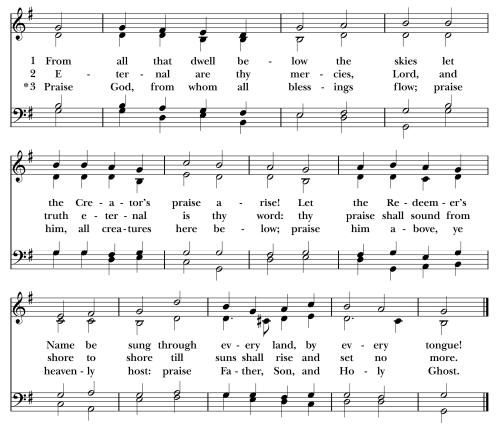
Offertory Hymn:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Felix Mendelssohn

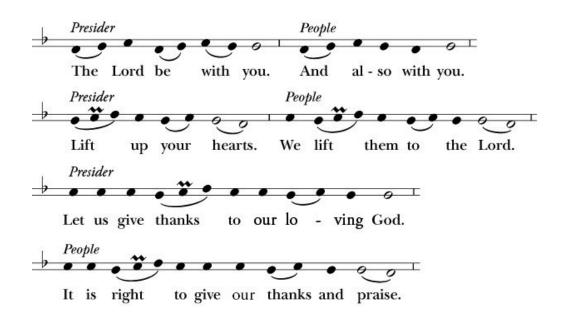
Doxology

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



CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLift 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

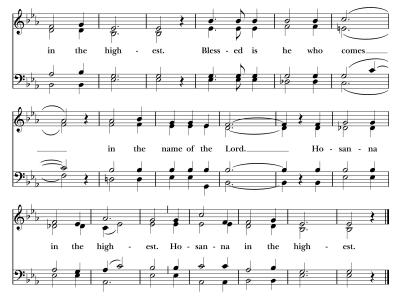
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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

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 #309 O Food to Pilgrims Given



Words: Latin, 1661; tr. John Athelstan Laurie Riley (1858-1945), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: O Welt, ich muss dich lassen, present form of melody att. Heinrich Isaac (1450?-1517), alt.; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

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 #321 On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry



THE DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE Organ Improvisation

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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
Dulce Lord/Intercessor
Mary Loretta Davila/Janice Horne Lectors
Daniel Tate/Eucharistic Minister
Jim Neubert/Usher
Alison LeBlanc, Livestream Technician

Christmas Eve Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20

| _Presider | Date |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Reverend Rebecca Goldberg | Sunday. December 22, 2024 |
| Reverend Debra Low-Skinner | Sunday. December 29, 2024 |
| Reverend Rebecca Goldberg | Sunday, January 5, 2025 |
| Reverend Rebecca Goldberg | Sunday, January 12, 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 23rd**, 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.

Sandwiches on Sunday – December 29th

Come join us! We will again assemble the sandwiches and brown bag lunches the day before, Saturday, December 28th, at the church from 9:00am - 11:00am. We will distribute them at the Fair Oaks Community Center in Redwood City on Sunday, December 29th, from 11:45 to 12:15 p.m. If you would like to help or have any questions, please contact Daniel Tate (cellular: 650-799-7084, email: dtate@ses.cdsp.edu)

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.

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.

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: Sign Up Genius https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4FA5A82CA0F94-coffee1

Worship Leaders Needed

Please sign up as a Lector for our 10:00* am Eucharist by emailing office@stambrosefostercity.org 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 office@stambrosefostercity.org or use the following link to signup: Signup Genius or Click on the following link https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4FA5A82CA0F94-worship *No 8:30am service at this time

Sunday School 10 AM

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

Rides for Gene Hetzer

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 dtate@ses.cdsp.edu or Warren Wong at wwwong@nd.edu

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. hfongster@gmail.com

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 dtate@ses.cdsp.edu

<u>Prayer list:</u> 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

Rose Umeda (Ballantyne) – December 21 Dorothy Matsuo – December 28



Contact Kay Ballanty (650) 773-7972 rose466@earthlink