



The Second Sunday in Advent,
Year A
Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sunday, December 7, 2025, 10:00 am

The Rev. Dr. Pamela Stevens
The Rev. Dcn. Skip Bushee
Guest Musician Malcolm Xiellie

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Redwood City
178 Clinton Street, Redwood City, CA 94062
www.stpetersrwc.org

Prelude

Piano voluntary

The Processional hymn

Lo he comes with clouds descending

Verses 1-3

Hymnal 1982 #57

For the processional hymn, the people stand and face the back of the sanctuary as the service begins, gradually turning their bodies to face the cross as it moves to the chancel.

Traditionally, the people bow to the cross as it passes.

The service continues on the following page.

Get ready for the Gospel:

The Gospel lesson today from St. Matthew introduces John the Baptist as someone who ministered in the wilderness, wore unconventional clothing, and ate unconventional food. He stood out and attracted attention.

John calls the people of Jerusalem to repent, to cleanse themselves physically and spiritually to prepare for a reckoning in the world, for God's justice to be done. And apparently they respond, in great numbers. John reminds the Jews not to rely on their ancestry, but to be fully present to preparing the way for the messiah.

The final sentences of this Gospel lesson make important distinctions between the one who *prepares* the way and the one who *is* the way, whose sandals John is not worthy to carry, much less wear.

This distinction mattered to the original audience of the text because there were would-be messiahs preaching repentance all around the city. Life in Palestine under Roman occupation felt to the people like the end of an age, the end of the world. People understood that something was going to happen.

John the Baptist had a following; many believed him to be the messiah. However, his own proclamation and his role in baptizing Jesus into his ministry make clear that he is the one who prepares the way.

The service continues on the following page.



1. Lo! He comes with clouds de - - scend - ing, Once for ev - 'ry
 2. Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - - hold Him Robed in dread - ful
 3. Ev - 'ry is - - land, sea, and moun - tain, Heav'n and earth, shall

sin - ner slain; Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - - tend - ing, Swell
 ma - jest - - y; Those who set at naught and sold Him, Pierced
 flee a - - way; All who hate Him must, con - found - ed, Hear

the tri - umph of His train: Hal - - le - lu - - jah! Hal - - le -
 and nailed Him to the tree: Deep - - ly wail - - ing, deep - - ly
 the trump pro - - claim the day: Come to judg - ment! Come to

- lu - - jah! Hal - - le - lu - - jah! God ap - - pears on earth to reign.
 wail - - ing, deep - - ly wail - - ing, Shall the true Mes - - si - - ah see.
 judg - - ment! Come to judg - ment! Come a - - way!

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

THE SECOND CANDLE: HOPE

The second candle symbolizes hope and is called the “Bethlehem Candle.” We remember Mary and Joseph and their journey to Bethlehem, reflecting on our own life journeys.

Those designated to light the Advent candle will offer the following prayer once the candle has been lit:

Advent Wreath Intercessor

Gracious God, you entered our world on Christmas to rescue us and bring peace. As we reflect on the belovedness of the Creation and of your tender care for us through Jesus, we ask that we may share your peace with all, in the hope we might change the world with love as. **Amen.**

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant

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

People

And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant

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.**

The Kyrie

Lord, have mercy upon us
S-91, *Hymnal* 1982

The Kyrie follows on the next page.



The Collect of the Day a "Collect" (CALLect) is a prayer said on behalf of a gathered assembly

Celebrant
The Lord be with you.

People
And also with you.

Celebrant
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.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Celebrant
Let us be seated for the lessons

The Lesson from the Old Testament

Isaiah 11:1-10

Lector

A reading from the book of 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19

Expansive God language

The First Song of Psalms

*The Lector and the People will read responsively (marked by an asterisk *).*

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

The Lesson from the Epistles:

Romans 15:4–13

Lector:

A reading from the second 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Hymn

There's a voice in the wilderness crying
Hymnal 1982 #75

The People stand for the Gradual hymn. A member of the clergy carries the Gospel among the People for the Proclamation. The People turn to face the Gospel.

The service continues on the following page.

The Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

Traditionally, as the clergy member says “The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” at the beginning of the proclamation, the people may make three small crosses over the forehead, lips, and heart.

Clergy:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew

People:

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Clergy:

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The People remain standing until they are invited to be seated by the preacher.

The Sermon
The Nicene Creed

The Rev. Dr. Pamela Stevens
The People 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 [human].
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 [She] is worshiped and glorified.
[She]* 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

Intercessor

Let us pray.

Dear God, today we walk in the hope which Advent brings for the creation of new visions, expectations, and possibilities for us and our world.

People

We pray with faith in the power of your hope.

Intercessor

We dare to dream of peace in the world; we pray for the welfare and safety of all your people, nations, and religions, living with tolerance, respect, and equality of freedom for all.

People

We pray with faith in the power of your care for all nations.

Intercessor

God, we lift up to you all those who minister through their baptism, and those ordained to serve us: Skip our Deacon, Pamela our Priest, Austin our, Bishop, and Sean our Presiding Bishop. We give thanks for all of your communities of worship and ask for your guidance.

People

We pray with faith in the power of your call to serve.

Intercessor

In our daily life, we thank you for nourishing our souls, energizing our minds, and feeding our bodies; so that we may listen for your call in our lives and serve others in your name. We thank you for giving us each unique gifts and vocations to use with loving purpose, following the examples of your Son Jesus, and of St. Mary and St. Peter and all the saints.

People

O God, we pray with faith in the power of your presence.

Intercessor

We pray for healing, for those seeking housing, care, support, and employment; for those living with fear, whose liberty is threatened or taken; for those who suffer with illness of mind or body, especially Claire Wright, Tony and Bridget, Marge Holland, Gia Pacheco, Kathy Runyeon, Ken Spira, Rita Spira, Linda Mickelson, Irene Z, Pat G., Shannon Walker, members of the Stellamos Youth Chorus, Jenny Cornell, Karina, Ellen Berning, , Jim Redman, Joanne Runyeon, Eva Mejia, Jerry Berning, David Elms, Joan Brumleve, and those who name now, silently or aloud...

*why the "She" pronoun here? In Hebrew the term "Holy Spirit" or breath of God, is ruach ha-kodesh (רוח הקודש), is feminine. In the Greek, *Pneuma Hagios* is neuter. Only in Latin, *Spiritus Sanctus*, is the term masculine. Using "She" honors the generative birthing action of the Holy Spirit in our Scriptures.

Intercessor

May all in need turn to God for help.

People

O God, we pray with faith in your healing power.

Intercessor

We pray for those who have died, those whom we hold in our hearts who have gone before us to your heavenly joy, especially [Wendy Dickman](#), [Joe Mickelson](#), [Jeannie & Peter Ferber](#), [Nancy Stevens](#), and those whom we name now, silently or aloud...

Intercessor

May flights of angels see them to their rest.

People

O God, we pray with faith in the power of your kingdom in heaven.

Intercessor

In the diocesan cycle of Prayer, we pray for these churches on their feast day St. Clement's, Berkeley and St. Ambrose, Foster City.

People

O God, we pray with faith in your call to be a community of believers.

Celebrant

We thank you Lord for your constant presence in our lives and hearts. Help us to allow space in our lives for your abundant guidance and blessings. Keep us, not on our agenda, but on yours, as that is the joy we seek.

Open our hearts to this new advent, this new beginning, this new opportunity to hear your will for our lives O, God, to rest in the unconditional love of our Creator. We thank you in the name of our savior, Jesus Christ.

People

Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

(the people remain standing)

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A moment of silence follows.

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant

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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The People exchange a sign of the peace, typically hands in prayer position with a small bow saying, "Peace," or some other greeting such as "May the Peace of the Lord be with you."

Observances of Life Events

The Celebrant will invite the congregation to offer prayers for blessings of those with birthdays and anniversaries with the following prayers.

For Birthdays

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* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Marriage Anniversaries

O God, You have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church; Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants N. and N., that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in

wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For Travelers

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel [in particular _____]; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

News and Announcements

The Sr. Warden will share the news of the day and upcoming events.

The Offertory Sentence

Celebrant

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2)

Ushers will pass the plate for an optional offering to the church for its mission and ministry. Thank you for



your generosity. Electronic donations are welcome

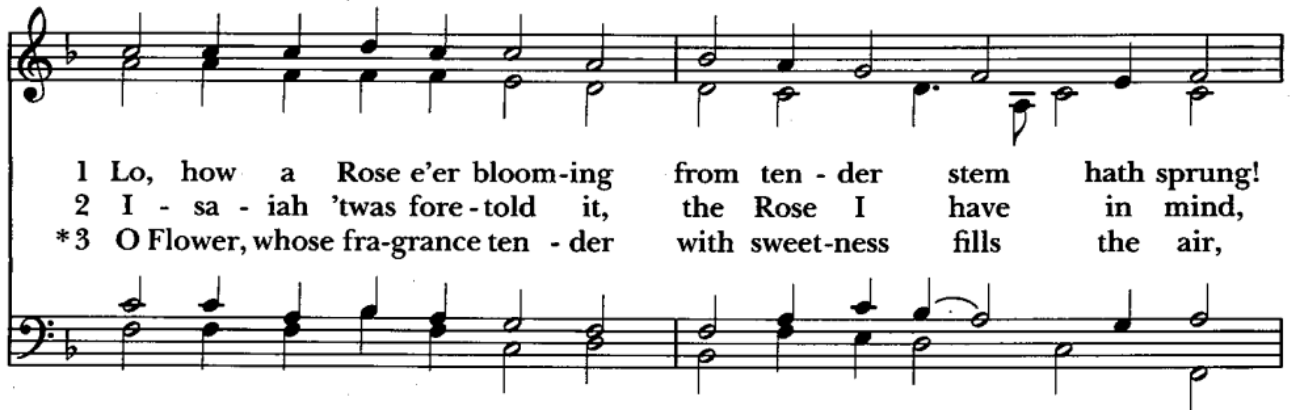
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The Offertory Hymn

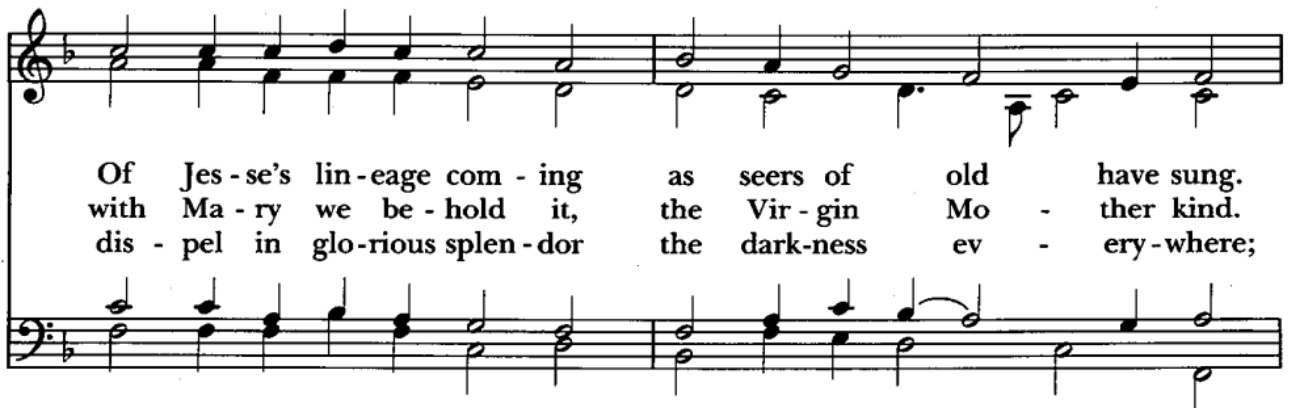
Lo how a rose e'er blooming
Hymnal 1982 # 75

*The People remain seated for the hymn, then stand at its conclusion
as the musician begins the Doxology and the gifts are presented at the altar.*

The Offertory Hymn continues on the following page.



1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 *3 O Flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,



Of Jes-se's lin-eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
 dis - pel in glo-rious splen - dor the dark-ness ev - ery-where;




It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and



cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

The Doxology and the Presentation of Gifts

The People stand and sing the Doxology, which appears on the following page.



*3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
God all crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A-men

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) in G major (one sharp). It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are: *3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. The music is a simple, homophonic setting with a steady rhythm.



The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP

The People stand.

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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 God thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

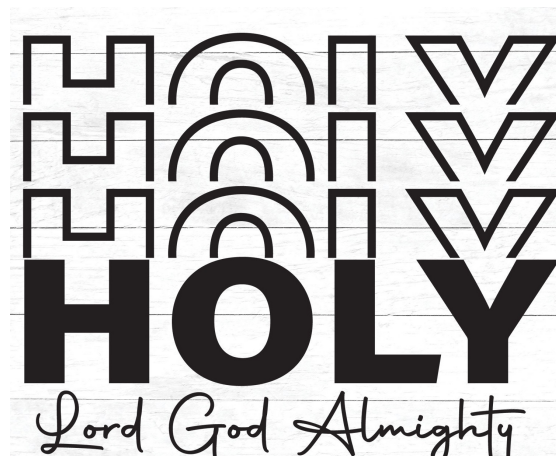
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

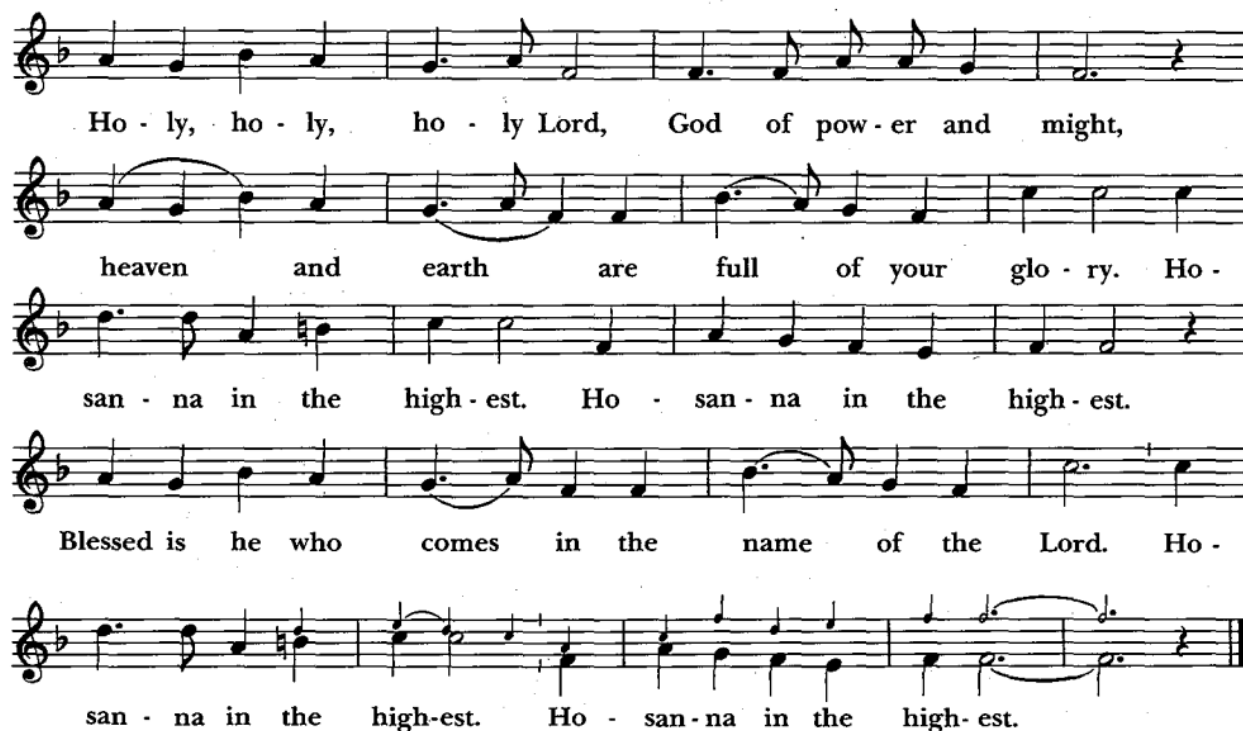
Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

The Sanctus

Holy, holy holy, Hymnal 1982 # S-125





The people stand or may kneel. The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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

People and Celebrant

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 lead us not into temptation,

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Fraction

<i>Celebrant</i>	Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world.
<i>People</i>	Have mercy on us.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world.
<i>People</i>	Have mercy on us.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lamb of God you take away the sins of the word.
<i>People</i>	Grant us peace.

Celebrant

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.

The Administration of Communion

At St. Peter's it is our practice is to receive the host, then dip (intinct) it into the wine before consuming it. Wine and grape juice are available, as is gluten-free host. The appropriate verbal response when receiving is "Amen."

The Communion Hymn

The King shall come when morning dawns

Verses 1-4

John Brownlie, William Jones

♩ = 110

1. The King shall come when mor-ning dawns And light tri - um-phant
2. Not as of old, a lit - tle child To bear and fight and
3. Oh, brigh-ter than the ri - sing morn When He, vic - to - rious
4. Oh, brigh-ter than the glo-rious morn Shall this fair, mor - ning

5
breaks; When beau - ty gilds the eas - tern hills And
die; But crowned with glo - ry the like the sun That
rose; And left the lone - some place of death Des -
be; When Christ, our king, in beau - ty comes And

8
life lights to joy a wakes.
the the mor - ning sky.
pite the the rage of foes.
we His face shall see.

The Prayer After Communion

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**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.**

The Blessing

Celebrant

.....and may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. **Amen.**

The Recessional Hymn

Prepare the way O Zion

Hymnal 1982 #65

The altar party will recess, following the cross. The People, following the cross, turn to face the back of the sanctuary. The dismissal follows the hymn.

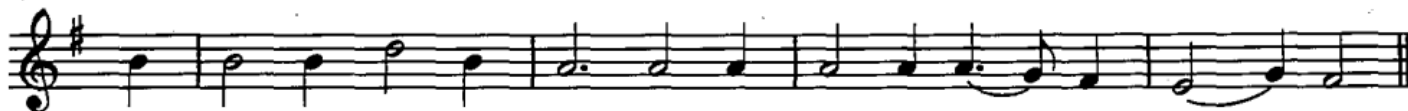
The service continues on the following page.



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.



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

The Dismissal

Clergy Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God Alleluia, Alleluia.

Postlude

Piano Voluntary

Please join us in the Parish Hall for our Advent study and reflective craft series, “Why do we do that??”

Today we will learn about and craft wreaths!

ADVENT

Christmas Tree



REFLECTION ACTIVITY

Upcoming Events at St. Peter's Redwood City

Through December 19th, Sign up to volunteer for the St. Peter's Bake Sale



- Sign up now using the above link to bake, decorate, and sell at our upcoming bake sale fundraiser.
- Part 1 will be before church and during coffee hour on Sunday, December 21, 2025.
- Part 2 will be at the reception following the Stellamos concert, in the parish hall at 4:30 pm.

Through December 22, 2025: Holiday Book & Toy Drive

St. Peter's is participating in the Redwood City & San Mateo County Toy and Book Drive!

- The donation barrel is just inside the parish office entry door for anyone who would like to drop off a new, unwrapped toy or book.
- Your generosity will help bring joy to local children and families this holiday season.
- The barrel will be picked up on **December 22, 2025**

December 11, Thursday: Reswick Studios Children's Christmas Concert and Recital

- 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm at St. Peter's in the Sanctuary
- Ticket sales open soon, \$20 donation to St. Peter's
- Come enjoy children playing and singing your favorite Christmas music at this concert-style recital intended to share holiday cheer!
- Donations collected will benefit St. Peter's.
- Reception in the parish hall after the concert.

December 14, 2025, Sunday: Service of Lessons and Carols

- 10:00 am worship service
- The entire church service, right up to Communion, will be lessons and carols.

- Enjoy a time of Advent music and preparation for the great gift of new birth at Christmas.

December 21, 2025, Saturday: Stellamos Youth Chorus Winter Concert at St. Peter's

- An evening of enchanting holiday music from these amazing youth choristers!
- Timing and ticket sale information is here, \$20.00 per ticket or volunteer your time.
- Reception directly following the concert.
- Christmas caroling in the neighborhood, promoted on Nextdoor.com



December 24, 2025, Wednesday: Christmas Eve All-ages Service

- 5:00 pm in the sanctuary
- An evening of music from all ages.
- Candle-light hymns and and Christmas Nativity
- Christmas pizza party in the Parish hall following the service.

December 28, 2025, Sunday: Bring your creshes

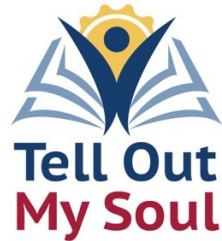
- Share your personal or family creche for a special display in the parish hall
- All style and sizes are welcome
- We will provide small cards for your name and a short note about its history or meaning

January 11, 2026, Sunday: Join us to Assemble Care Kits d

- During Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall.
- This project is a partnership with Bayview Mission Ministry with care kits distributed to unhoused neighbors by the LifeMoves Homeless Outreach Team.
- Kits are also available for St. Peter's members to share with neighbors in need.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

178 Clinton St., Redwood City, CA 94062



*And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..."*
Luke 1:46-47, NRSV

Dear Beloved Family of God,

As Christians we are story tellers. We have an ancient narrative, one that describes the beginning of time and the relationship between God and God's Creation. We see this story grow through the prophetic tradition until our story recounts the life and gifts of the Son of God. But the story doesn't end with the Resurrection just as it did not end with the Cross. It continues on in each of us today as we encounter and are transformed by the Good News.

Luke's Gospel is bookended by the animated story-telling of two women named Mary. Early in the Gospel, Mary the mother of Jesus, tells us of her encounter with the Divine who informs her that she will bear a child who will change the world. She proclaims her joy: "Tell out my soul! The Greatness of the Lord!" At the end of the Gospel, another Mary, Mary Magdalene, visits the tomb to discover it empty and receives instructions from the Risen Christ to go tell the others. She carries this Good News with jubilation to the Disciples.

What is your Good News—the idea, dream, and challenge placed in your heart by God, that needs to be shared? Think about how God is calling you to tell out your soul, to spread the Good News far and wide. During this special time of Stewardship, discern how you will share the Good News of your transformative creativity and abundance with us and with our neighbors. Each hour spent volunteering, each good idea that you have, each dollar that you donate is transformed through prayer and Grace into ministry and mission. We could not be an example of love and compassion in our community without your many and various gifts.

Tell out my soul! The Greatness of the Lord!

Please return your pledge pages by our Ingathering Sunday, November 30 so that we may give them a special blessing.

With Love and Prayers,

Rev. Dr. Pamela Stevens
Rector of St. Peter's

Nancy Oliver
Senior Warden
& Stewardship Chair

Paul Berning
Junior Warden



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Pledge Form for 2026

Ingathering: **November 30, 2025**

Name(s) _____

As part of "Telling Out My Soul," I/we pledge a total of \$_____
for the 2026 Church ministry. I/we plan to fulfill this promise:
\$____ weekly; \$____ monthly; \$____ semiannually; \$____ annually

For our Church Roster:

Family name(s):	phone(s)	email(s)	B'day	Anniv.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Address: _____
and/or apt. Street City ZIP

Using Our Time and Talents

There are many ministries at St. Peter's (Altar Guild, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Coffee Hour, Work Days, Serving on the Vestry, Deanery Representative, office work, event planning, etc.)

• I / my family would like to volunteer: _____

• I / my family would like to learn more about these ministries or opportunities:

• I / my family have skills and interests we would like to share or teach to others.

It takes more than money to operate ministry in our church. With gratitude we accept the many gifts of our members as volunteers, servers, ambassadors, and friends in and outside our community. Thank you for all you contribute toward our goals!