

Nativity Worships
Advent Evening Prayer with O Antiphons
December 17-23, 5:30 p.m. on Facebook Livestream



Episcopal Church of the Nativity
San Rafael, California

The Rev. Kirsten Snow Spalding, Rector
The Rev. Scott Sinclair, Assisting Priest
The Rev. Lynn Oldham Robinett, Assisting Priest
The Rev. Rebecca Morehouse, Deacon

Evening Prayer Services will be [Livestreamed on Facebook](#).

A prayer before a Christmas crib

I open the stable door;
 I kneel before the infant;
 I worship with the shepherds;
 I adore the Christ child.
 I give my love with Mary and Joseph;
 I wonder at the 'Word made flesh'.
 I am aware of the love of God;
 I sing glory with the angels;
 I offer my gifts with the wise men.
 I receive the living Lord;
 I hold Him in my hands;
 I go on my way rejoicing,
 glorifying and praising God.

David Adam

The Advent antiphons

The words in italics, from the Advent Hymn, may be sung.

I. (DECEMBER 17)

O Wisdom,

You come forth from the mouth of the Most High.

You fill the universe and hold all things together
 in a strong yet gentle manner.

O come to teach us the way of truth.

*O come, O come, Thou wisdom from above;
 the universe sustaining with Thy love.*

*Thou springest forth from the Almighty's mouth.
Subdue us now, and lead us in Thy truth.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2. (DECEMBER 18)

O Adonai and leader of Israel,
You appeared to Moses in a burning bush
and You gave him the law on Sinai.
O come and save us with Your mighty power.

*O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud, and majesty and awe:*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

3. (DECEMBER 19)

O Stock of Jesse,
You stand as a signal for the nations.
Kings fall silent before You whom the peoples acclaim.
O come to deliver us, and do not delay.

*O come, Thou rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell Thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave:*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

4. (DECEMBER 20)

O Key of David and sceptre of Israel,
 what You open, no one can close again;
 what You close, no one can open.
 O come to lead the captive from prison;
 free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

*O come, Thou Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery:*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.*

5. (DECEMBER 21)

O Rising Sun,
 You are the splendour of eternal light
 and the sun of justice.
 O come and enlighten those who sit in darkness
 and in the shadow of death.

*O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
 our spirits by Thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight:*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.*

6. (DECEMBER 22)

O King whom all the peoples desire,
 You are the cornerstone which makes all one.
 O come and save us whom You made from clay.

*O come, Desire of Nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid the strife and quarrels cease.
Fill all the world with heaven's peace.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

7. (DECEMBER 23)

*O Immanuel,
You are our King and judge,
the One whom the peoples await, and their Saviour.
O come and save us, Lord, our God.*

*O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear:*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Service of Light

GREETING (BCP p. 109)

All stand

Officiant Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

SHORT LESSON (BCP p. 109)

If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,” darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.
Psalm 139:10-11

PRAYER FOR LIGHT (BCP p. 110)

The Officiant says

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Candle-Lighting

PHOS HILARON (BCP p. 112)

O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

PSALM

From the Daily Lectionary Readings [available here](#).

The Lessons

NEW TESTAMENT (SECOND) READING

From the Daily Lectionary Readings [available here](#).

O ANTIPHON *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

FIRST CANTICLE (BCP p. 119)

Canticle 15: The Song of Mary

Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
 for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
 the Almighty has done great things for me,
 and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
 in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
 he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
 and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
 and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
 for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
 to Abraham and his children for ever.
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.

GOSPEL READING

From the Daily Lectionary Readings [available here](#).

SECOND CANTICLE (BCP p. 119)

Canticle 17: The Song of Simeon

Nunc dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

Lord, you now have set your servant free *
 to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
 whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
 and the glory of your people 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.

HOMILY

The Rev. Kirsten Snow Spalding

In this season of Advent we pray, we repent, we prepare ourselves through service and contemplation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, the coming the divine into the world at our time and in our place.

THE APOSTLES' CREED (BCP p. 96)

Officiant and People together, all standing.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

SALUTATION (BCP p. 121)

The people stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Officiant Let us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 121)

Officiant and People

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.

SUFFRAGES (BCP p. 121)

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,
We entreat you, O Lord.
That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,
We entreat you, O Lord.
That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,
We entreat you, O Lord.
That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,
We entreat you, O Lord.
That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great
judgment seat of Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.
That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of all your saints,
entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

FIRST COLLECT (BCP p. 212)

We pray the Collect of the Day.

SECOND COLLECT (BCP p. 122)

Most holy, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. *Amen.*

THIRD COLLECT (BCP p. 122)

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

PRAYER FOR MISSION (BCP p. 124)

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING (BCP p. 125)

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM (BCP p. 126)

Officiant and People

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

CONCLUDING VERSICLE (BCP p. 126)

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CONCLUDING SENTENCE (BCP p. 126)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14*

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