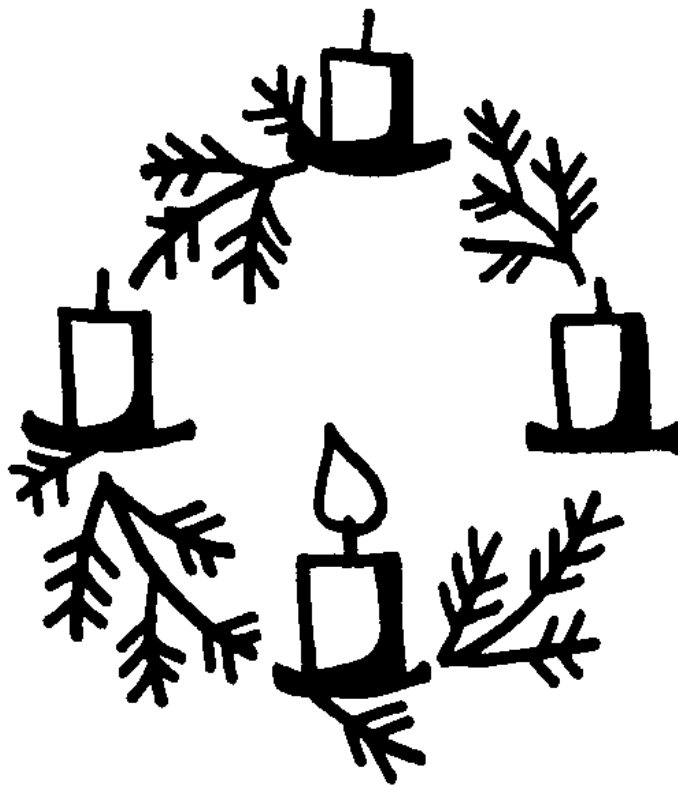


Welcome to

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

*Committed to living a faith journey that is
sacred, intentional, compassionate and inclusive*



The First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024 ☩ 9:30 a.m.

The Rev. Betsy McElroy, Rector

Worship: Sundays 9:30 a.m.

Church Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday

1055 S. Lower Sacramento Road, Lodi, California 95242

stjohnslodi@sbcglobal.net † www.stjohnsoflodi.org † 209.369.3381 (voice)

Welcome to the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist!

This bulletin will guide you through the liturgy (worship service). The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and The Hymnal 1982 are used throughout this service.

We are a school for transformation, as we seek to become a more diverse community of people, a kaleidoscope of different lifestyles, ages, ethnic and religious backgrounds, sexual orientations, financial circumstances and more. We invite all who seek God and wish to explore being part of a Christian congregation to our table and into our fellowship. We welcome those seeking a safe place for the expression of personal spiritual practices, ideas, politics, questions, doubts -- and faith. We also confess that as a community we are not perfected in love. However, we seek to become more fully loving and to accept all who wish to join this journey.

St. John's wishes to acknowledge and honor the Yokut and Miwok people[s] upon whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as the resilience and strength of all our indigenous siblings around the world.

Today's Advent Greens are given to the glory of God by:

None

If you would like to donate flowers, please contact the church office at 369-3381.

Those Who Serve Today

Celebrant: The Rev. Betsy McElroy (B)

Deacon/Preacher: The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson (B)

Choir Director: Steven Weikle

Pianist/Organist: Michael Tompkins

Eucharistic Minister: Margaret Meyers (C)

Lectors: Hennie Van Konynenburg & Charlene Martin

Camera Acolyte: Holly Wilson (GF)

Crucifer: Stacey Bagnasco (C)

Ushers: Tom Gundershaug & TBA

Sound: Stephanie Pilcher

Altar Guild: Margaret Meyers & Paula Saubolle

Vestry Open/Close (Announcements): Fran Bott/Stacey Bagnasco

Designer Guild: TBA

Nursery Care: None until further notice

Sunday School: None

Coffee Hour: None

Counters: Tom Gundershaug & Eric Goossens

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through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah *All are seated*

Hennie
Van Konynenburg

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

(Jeremiah 33:14-16)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-9

Charlene Martin

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Sequence Hymn

Prepare the way the way of the Lord

MHSO 61

Canon 1 2

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord, and
all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. —
Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le -
lu - - - ia. Al - le - lu - - - ia.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Luke

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

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

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man." (*Luke 21:25-36*)

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Betsy McElroy

Silence

Nicene Creed *All stand as able.*

Deacon Tom Hampson

**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.**

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; including from our prayer list Marilyn & Jack Cook, Jack Christy and family, Kevin & Jeannie Canwell, Richard & Rosemary Cress, Katie Long, the Wilson family, Amber and Rick, Scott , Nichole O., Devin L. , Greg S., The McCormick and Badgley families.
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.

Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP p. 360

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(stand or kneel as able.)*

**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 Celebrant pronounces the Absolution:

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.**

Announcements

Birthdays and Anniversaries Blessings *All together,*

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offertory Sentence

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

(Celebrant and People)

Hymnal S140

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks
to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

The Celebrant continues,

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood

of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with St. John the Baptist and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.



The Lord's Prayer *(traditional)*

Celebrant: And now as our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: 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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Fraction Hymn

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus

WLP 877

Choir/Cantor

The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread.

Refrain- All Sing

The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread.

Choir/Cantor

The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.

Refrain - All Sing

Choir/Cantor

One body are we, alleluia, though many we share one bread.

All Sing

The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread.

Celebrant continues,

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Music

From Hand to Hand

MHSO 49

From hand to hand, from hand to hand we pass the Bread of Life. — From
 From hand to hand, from hand to hand we pass the cup of wine. — From
 heart to heart, from heart to heart, we pass the bread with love. —
 heart to heart, from heart to heart, we pass the cup with love. —

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Sending Eucharistic Visitors *All together*

In the name of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

Postcommunion Prayer *(standing)*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

The Celebrant blesses the people.

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

Come thou long expected Jesus

Hymnal 66

The Dismissal

Go Now In Peace

Sung - Rev. Betsy to Instruct

Postlude

O come, Divine Messiah

traditional

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You can also give through GIVELIFY app. If you go to our website:

www.stjohnsoflodi.org On the right side of the page you can click on GIVELIFY. Put in Episcopal church of St. John the Baptist and indicate the amount of your gift and what is for, i.e. pledge, rector/ deacon discretionary, other, etc.). Givelify App is available at: [the "App Store"](#) or ["Google Play"](#) Or scan this code:



Upcoming Calendar

Monday, December 2

4:15 pm, Salvation Army Dinner Service, Hope Harbor

5:30 pm, Finance Committee Meeting, Zoom

Tuesday, December 3

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church Office

5:00 pm, Stockton Chorale Dress Rehearsal, Church

Wednesday, December 4

10:30 am, People of Faith, Nursery

12:00 Noon, Noon-Day Prayer, Historical Chapel

6:30pm, Choir Practice, Hospitality Room

December 5 – 7: Rev. Betsy Out-of-town

Thursday, December 5

8:00 pm, Compline Prayer

Saturday, December 7

1:00 pm , Bee Sen Piano Recital - Church Rental, Church

Sunday, December 8

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist – 2nd Sunday of Advent, Church

11:00 am, Advent Study, Chapel

1:00 pm, Stockton Choral Facility Rental, Church

Salvation Army Adopt-a-Family: St. John's will be promoting this annual event. We have received our family. A gift tree with giving options is by the Ministry Table. Please indicate on the sign up sheet, which gift you've selected. **Gifts must be delivered to St. John's by Sunday, December 8th.**

Salvation Army Dinner Service News - We are so very blessed to have a thriving ministry team supporting the Salvation Army Dinners at Hope Harbor. Karen Olds is stepping down from scheduling, and we are looking for a person to take on that role. Please talk to Karen Olds or one of your vestry members if you are interested.

Join us every Wednesday at 12 Noon for Noon-Day Prayer in the Chapel.

Compline Prayer Thursdays @ 8:00 pm: Here's the link for the **Thursday, 8:00 PM, Compline service.** Topic: Compline Time: 8:00 PM Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82473384767?pwd=7xJY6MbaOLFjrnlnNWm41nZPDJIT87T.1> Meeting ID: 824 7338 4767 Passcode: 168908

Preparing for Advent

Silent Prayer for Advent – Every Sunday in Advent, the Chapel will be open from 9:00 am to 9:20 am. This is an opportunity for Silent Prayer prior to the church service.

Advent Study Opportunity Sundays during Advent - This Advent, we invite you to join us in reading the Book of Isaiah. Each Sunday during the Season of Advent, we will meet after the service in the Historic Chapel to discuss the chapters assigned for that week. Materials, including the reading schedule and links to introductory videos, are provided on the ministry table. If you have questions, please see Rev. Betsy or Dc. Tom.

Before diving into Isaiah in preparation for our Advent I discussion, you may find it helpful to watch the following video as an introduction to Isaiah.

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/isaiah-1-39/>

Looking Forward in December

Blue Christmas Service - Tuesday, December 10 @ 5:00 pm - A Service of Healing and Hope. For those persons for whom the Christmas/Holiday Season Brings Forth Negative Emotions. You are invited to this brief worship service in the Chapel as an opportunity to get in touch with any grief that arises for you during this Season. We hope that after our time together, through prayer, music, and silence, participants will leave the service better able to be present to the season, amidst all life circumstances. Past participants in Blue Christmas worship have experienced benefits from quietly naming their grief before God. All who feel that they can benefit from this service, no matter their level of faith, or connection to our denomination, are invited.

Las Posadas Celebration, December 14, 4:00 to 6:00 PM - St. Johns is joining with two other congregations - Salem United Methodist Church and Iglesia Luterana Santa Maria Peregrina - to celebrate Las Posadas this year. We'll also be joined by Bishop David along with clergy and parishioners from other Episcopal congregations of the Northern Deanery. It should be a great event!! Please join us for this beloved tradition that recreates the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem in search of lodging. Enjoy an evening of unity and fellowship for the whole family. Savor the tamales and hot chocolate, the mariachi music, and the good company. The celebration will take place at Salem UMC at 345 E Elm Street and will include a short walk through the neighborhood.



Dec 14
4:00PM
community
Las Posadas

Live Music Música en Vivo
Tamales and Hot Cocoa Tamales y Champurrado
Piñata Piñata

Route:
Begin at Salem United Methodist
345 E Elm St, Lodi, CA 95240
Walk to 502 E. Lodi Mural
Return to Salem United Methodist
for Celebration

Ruta:
Comenzaremos en la iglesia Salem
United Methodist en el
345 E Elm St, Lodi, CA 95240
Caminaremos hacia el 502 E. Lodi Mural
Y Volveremos a Salem United Methodist
para la Celebración

Sponsors/Patrocinadores



Flowers for Adornment of the Christmas Liturgy - It is a tradition of our church to list special remembrance and dedications in our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day service bulletin. You are invited to participate in this ministry. On the ministry table you will find a list from last year. If you want to do the same dedication, please indicate OK next to your entry. If you would like to add a new dedication, please fill out the form next to this list and place in basket provided. If you want to change your listing, please write in red pen and make updates or changes. If you have any questions, please check with Penny in the office.

Vestry Nominations are Open . . . Feeling Called? - We are in the process of gathering names for our 2027 Vestry Class. The vestry serves as the board for St. John's. Please read the November Newsletter for a detailed description. If you are feeling called to serve, please let any of our current vestry members, Rev. Betsy, or Dc. Tom know and we will put your name forward (or if you know someone who'd serve well in this ministry).

Families Helping Families 2024 - Once again St. John's will be serving as the collection and distribution site on Sunday, December 15th for Families Helping Families sponsored by A New Lodi. If you would like to support this effort please contact Mickey Ditmore 209-298-8829 or mditmore28@gmail.com

****Attention Ministry Leaders! Ministry Reports due January 13, 2025**

It is that time again to start preparing for the Annual Meeting in January. Please have your Ministry reports to Penny in the office by January 13, 2025. Thank you.

2024 Vestry Members - Margaret Meyers, Senior Warden; Kelly Olds, Junior Warden; Fran Bott, Clerk, Stacey Bagnasco, Beth Elwood, Bob Gorczyca, Charlene Martin, Christina Soria, Debby Weberski & Andee Zetterbaum