

Welcome to

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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



The Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 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:

Jan and Amanda in loving memory of Gina Cariati

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: The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson (B)

Preacher: Charlene Martin

Choir Director: Steven Weikle

Pianist/Organist: Michael Tompkins

Eucharistic Minister: Stacey Bagnasco (C)

Lectors: Debby Weberski & Christina Soria

Camera Acolyte: Carlo Bagnasco (GF)

Crucifer: Beth Elwood (C)

Lighting of the Advent Candles: Jan & Poppy

Ushers: Debby Weberski & David Diekman

Sound: Jim Bassett

Altar Guild: Anne Reeve & Margaret Meyers

Vestry Open/Close (Announcements): Debby Weberski/Beth Elwood

Designer Guild: Janie Williams & Allison Dooley

Nursery Care: None until further notice

Sunday School: Ruth Diekman

Coffee Hour: Robert & Diane Elliott

Counters: Sharon Farnsworth & TBA

The Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry arranged by David N. Johnson

(Copyright 1981, Augsburg Publishing House. All Rights Reserved. ASCAP Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-706573-A)

Entrance Hymn

(Standing)

Prepare the way, O Zion

Hymnal 65

Wreath Prayer for the Lighting of the Advent Candles

Celebrant (Light two candles and say),

"There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came to bear witness to the coming of the light so that all might believe through him." (*John 1:6-7*)

People,

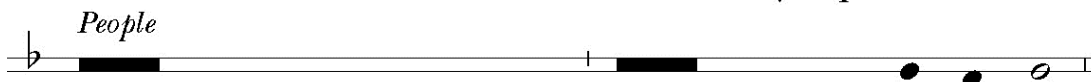
O God, help us to be ready for the coming of your Son, the light of all who love him, by making room for him in our hearts. Amen.

Opening Acclamation

Hymnal S 76



Bless-ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit.



And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev-er. A-men.

Collect for Purity *(Celebrant continues)*

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 Gloria

Canticle 20

Hymnal S278

The Collect of the Day

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.**

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

Debby Weberski

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. (*Malachi 3:1-4*)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 16 *The Song of Zechariah*

Debby Weberski

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *

he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,

that he would save us from our enemies, *

from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *

holy and righteous in his sight

all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation *

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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.

Christina Soria

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians *All are seated*

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. (*Philippians 1:3-11*)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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
3 4
all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. —
1 2
Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le -
3 4
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.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" (*Luke 3:1-6*)

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Charlene Martin

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.**

Prayers of the People *Form III*

Stacey Bagnasco

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 Katie Long, Marilyn and Jack Cook, Jack Christy and family, Scott, Devin L., Greg S., Karin Garcia's fiance, The Canwells, Richard and Rosemary Cress, the Wilson family, Pat McCormick and sons.
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 *(stand or kneel as able.)*

BCP p. 360

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Anthem

Prepare ye

Marc A. Robinson

The Doxology

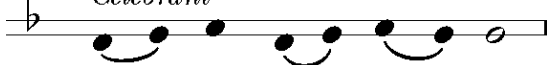
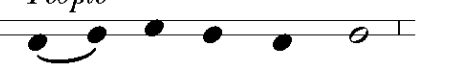
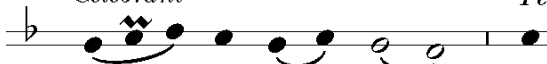

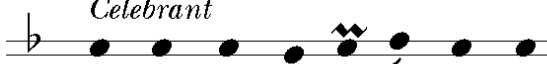
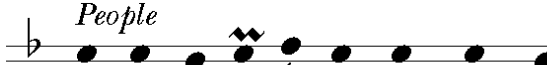
Praise to God (vs. 3 only)

Hymnal 380

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer D (*Standing*)

Hymnal S120

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

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing (say),

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

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.



A - MEN.

The Lord's Prayer *(traditional)*

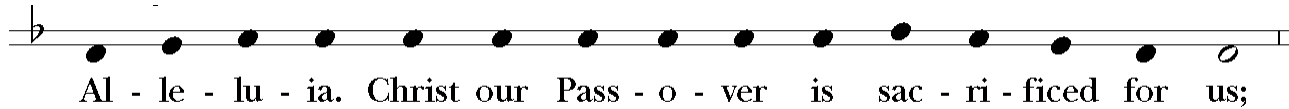
Celebrant: And now as our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

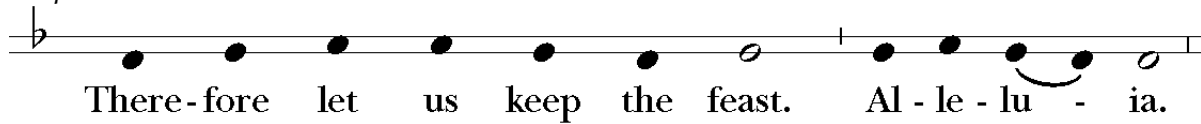
The Breaking of the Bread

Hymnal S152

Celebrant



People

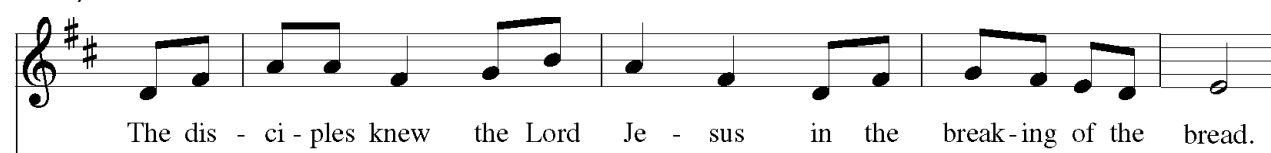


Fraction Hymn

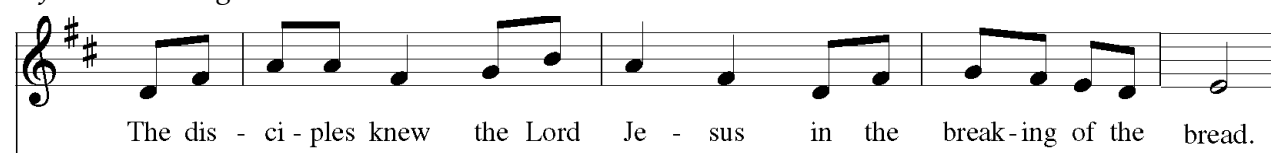
The disciples knew the Lord Jesus

WLP 877

Choir/Cantor



Refrain- All Sing



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



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

Comfort, comfort ye my people

Hymnal 67

(All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-706573-A)

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

Hark a Thrilling Voice is Sounding

Hymnal 59

The Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace to prepare the way of The Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

People Look East

by Eleanor Farjeon

(All Rights Reserved. ASCAP Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-706573-A)

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

Sunday, December 8 - Advent II

9:00 am to 9:20 am, Advent Quiet Time, Historic Chapel

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

11:00 am, Advent Study, Historic Chapel

1:00 pm, Stockton Choral Facility Rental, Church (Concert at 3:30 pm)

Monday, December 9

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

Tuesday, December 10

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church Office

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

5:00 pm, Blue Christmas Service, Historic Chapel

Wednesday, December 11

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

6:30pm, Choir Practice, Hospitality Room

Thursday, December 12

8:00 pm, Compline Prayer

Saturday, December 14

10:00 am, Private Funeral, Cherokee

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm, Northern Deanery Christmas Party, Church

4:00 pm, Las Posadas Celebration

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

Sunday, December 15 - Advent III

9:00 am to 9:20 am, Advent Quiet Time, Historic Chapel

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

11:00 am, Advent Study, Chapel

12:00 noon, A New Lodi, Families Helping Families, Church

Salvation Army Adopt-a-Family- Today is the Deadline! 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.**

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=7xJY6MbaOLFjrnlNWm41nZPDJIT87T.1>

Meeting ID: 824 7338 4767 Passcode: 168908

****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.

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/>

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.

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

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).

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