



ST. DUNSTAN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 14, 2025
8 am

Welcome to St Dunstan's! We are glad you are here!

St. Dunstan's acknowledges that the land on which we gather, and which we steward, is the historic territory of the Rumsen and Esselen peoples, who cared for this land throughout the generations. We give thanks for their strength and resilience in protecting this land, and aspire to uphold our responsibilities according to their example.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

All stand at the ringing of the bell.

Priest Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

All **We choose to believe that the day is coming when "the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away"** (Isaiah 35:10).

Reader We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

The Collect of the Day *The people stand or kneel.*

Priest God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Priest Let us pray.

God of the burning sand and thirsty ground: you called John into the wilderness to announce a new creation far from palaces of royal power; make us ready for your intensity, the judgement that opens our senses to the poverty of our world and calls to life what lingers in death; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

Isaiah 35:1–10

The prophet envisions a time of abundance and healing for Israel. As when the people were led out of Egypt into the promised land, so this new return will be in the power of God. Retribution will fall upon the Lord's enemies, but there will be water in the wilderness for the redeemed. In words that are later used by Jesus to describe what is taking place in his ministry, the prophet foretells an age when the blind and deaf, the lame and dumb will be healed.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools,
shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146:4-9

A hymn of praise to the Lord, who forms the world and rules in justice, who heals and cares for the needy.

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The LORD shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

James 5:7–10

An exhortation to patient expectation in preparation for the coming of the Lord. One may learn from the farmer, who must wait for the crop to ripen, or from the prophets who bore suffering with patience. Such endurance excludes a grumbling blaming of one another. The Lord will come soon.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

All Stand.

Matthew 11:2–11

Jesus responds to a question from John the Baptist about his mission and then describes John's ministry. Jesus' answer to John's question suggests that people must make up their own minds about his role while observing the healings that are taking place in accordance with ancient prophecies. Those who hear Jesus are also to recognize that John is a prophet and more: he is the one who prepares for the Lord's coming.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

After the sermon a brief silence is kept.

The Rev. Laurel Coote

The Nicene Creed *All 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 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who 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 for Advent

The people stand or kneel

From the Standing Committee on Liturgy & Music

Subcommittee on Racial Justice and Reconciliation

Leader The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. *Isaiah 9:2*

You who dwell in darkness and light, in silence and sound, dwell in the hearts of your people. In hope, peace, and joy may we await with anticipation the coming of Christ the Morning Star.

Silence

Leader Christ, be our light

People Shine in our hearts.

Leader You who framed the brightness of the first light in creation, dispel the arrogance, animosity, and anger that shatter the unity of your holy Church. Fill your faithful people with the radiant light of truth.

Silence

Leader Christ, be our light

People Shine in our hearts.

Leader You who delivered your people from the misery of bondage in slavery to the land of promise, set us free from enslavement to division, disunity, and distrust in our public life and labor. Illumine those in authority with the light of vision.

Silence

Leader Christ, be our light

People Shine in our hearts.

Leader You who patterned the stars and called the sun into being, who appointed the moon and chartered the cosmos, pattern the hearts of people everywhere to see in each other the beauty of the universe and the splendor of creation, that divisions of Race, Class, Gender, and Ethnicity may be recreated into one common humanity.

Silence

Leader Christ, be our light
People Shine in our hearts.

Leader You who shower comfort and hope to the lowest, the lost, and the least, shower the light of compassion on the sick, the sorrowful, and the suffering. Help us to be your compassion and hope in the world. We pray today *especially for* _____.

Silence

Leader Christ, be our light
People Shine in our hearts.

Leader You who welcome into the brilliant light of eternity those who have died, welcome those whose lives have been cut short by violence, warfare, and strife. Shine the light of hope upon them and those who love them. We pray today *especially for* _____.

Silence

Leader Christ, be our light
People Shine in our hearts.

Leader You who delight in the complexity and splendor of creation, help us to delight in the diversity of this earth, our island home. Inspire your people to care for all you have made.

Silence

Leader Christ, be our light
People Shine in our hearts.

Priest May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find us ever burning with the light of love, the spirit of truth, and the wellspring of hope.

People Amen.

Priest Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

All **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 our Savior 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 Absolution

Priest Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace *All stand.*

Priest The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people exchange the peace with one another.

Announcements *All are seated.*

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory Sentence

During the setting of the table a collection is taken to support the life and ministry at St. Dunstan's. The people's offerings of bread, wine and money or other gifts will be brought to the priest. The people stand while the offerings are presented. Offerings may also be made online at www.stdcv.org

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

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Priest God be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Priest It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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:

**People Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The people stand or kneel.

Priest Holy and gracious God: 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 maker of all. Jesus 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Priest We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Jesus Christ our Savior.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Priest And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People **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

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread.

Priest Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

Priest 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who come in faith seeking a deeper knowledge and love of Jesus Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Come forward to receive the bread in your open palm.

If you choose to receive the cup, gently guide the chalice to your lips by touching the base.

We are not able to allow the wafer to be dipped in the chalice.

Those who prefer to receive a blessing, or who choose not to receive the cup, may indicate this by crossing their arms over their chest.

If you have a wheat sensitivity, you may ask the priest for a gluten-free wafer. You may have communion brought to your seat by notifying an usher.

Prayers for yourself or another are available during Communion by a member of the Daughters of the King in the back of the church near the Sacristy door.

The Prayer After Communion

Priest Let us pray.

People Almighty and everliving God,

we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food

of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;

and for assuring us in these holy mysteries

that we are living members of the body of Christ,

and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,

to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing *All Stand.*

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God!**

Join us for coffee hour following the service.

~

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God



come. explore. serve. be.

Come walk with us in faith and friendship.
Share our desire to **explore** our relationship with God
and support one another.

Join us to make a difference in our world;

serve all with compassion.

Be yourself among us.

**A SEASON OF GIVING
HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS OVER THE HOLIDAYS**

At St. Dunstan's we are blessed to be able to share our abundance to enhance the holiday season for our neighbors, locally and across the globe.

Beginning THIS SUNDAY, and every week in Advent, ministry leaders will share each week about those they serve and how you can play a part in making their Holidays Brighter!!

Our ministries are:
Friends of Rippling River
Salvation Army
St. Andre's School in Haiti
I-Help Men & Women
Nancy's Project

Today's Featured Ministry

Nancy's Project

**A time to give thanks for the people who plant, tend and harvest
our food in the Salinas valley!**

Those who provide us with fresh produce every day frequently cannot afford enough food for their families. Join Nancy's Project in filling this gap (and their tummies) by bringing grocery gift cards to St. Dunstan's. We will give them to farm worker families and assure their Christmas dinners are plentiful! Or, donate to Nancy's Project through the McGives! web site so we get a match!

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION AND GENEROSITY!

Call for Vestry and Convention Delegates

As we head into 2026, it is time to herald the call for Vestry and Convention Delegate Nominations. Now is the time to prayerfully consider if God is calling you to serve in a leadership role at St. Dunstan's.

*You can pick the official **Vestry and Convention Delegate Nomination Form** on the Welcome table. Forms should be submitted for anyone wishing to be nominated and considered for one of these leadership positions.*

*In 2026 we will elect 2 new Vestry members, each serving 3-year terms (Class of 2029). We will also elect (5) five Delegates to Diocesan Convention. The form contains all information required and is due by **January 9 2026**. The nominating committee confirms eligibility of each proposed nominee and willingness to serve if elected, then prayerfully discerns, and proposes the recommended slate of nominees for the open positions.*

If you want to learn more about possibly serving on the Vestry or as a Delegate, please don't hesitate to reach out to any Vestry Member, or to Rev. Laurel

Christmas Poinsettia Dedications

Dedicate a Christmas poinsettia in remembrance of a loved one, to mark an anniversary, or simply to give thanks. Recommended donation is \$20 each. Checks should be made out to St. Dunstan's with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo.



Please sign up on the Welcome Table. The deadline for submissions is **December 21st**

**On Sunday
January 11, 2026**
we will celebrate
The Baptism of our Lord Sunday
with baptisms!

If you or a family member is interested
in being baptized,
reach out to Rev. Laurel for more information
and preparation!



I-Help for Men this Thursday December 18th

Look for the Sign-Up sheet on the welcome table to bring in
food or to help with the men's dinner on the 18th.
We appreciate your participation!

Thank you from the I-HELP Team

Adult Faith Formation Advent Discussion Groups

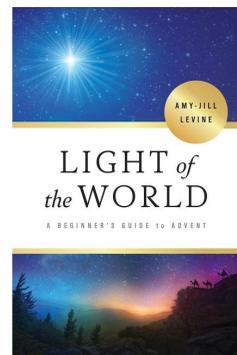
Adult formation groups continue this week. Our text is
“Light of the World: A Beginner’s Guide to Advent” by seminary
professor and New Testament scholar, Amy-Jill Levine.

Sundays at 9:00am

Tuesdays at 4:30pm

Wednesdays (women's group) 11:00am

“Come join with us in faith and friendship.”
“Share our desire to explore our relationship with
God and support one another” during Advent.



***Wonder what's going on at
St. Dunstan's?***

Sign up today to receive

St. Dunstan's weekly eNews

Getting weekly news, links to sermons, updates, and schedules is as simple as visiting stdcv.org/subscribe and entering your email address.

**Dedicate Altar
Flowers**

This is a lovely and meaningful way to give Glory to God in celebration of a birthday, or in thanksgiving, or in memory of a loved one. The suggested donation is \$30. Checks should be made out to St. Dunstan's with "Altar Flowers" in the memo.

Sign up on the Welcome Table.



**Pastoral Care &
Prayer Requests**

For pastoral concerns, contact Rev. Laurel at rector@saintdunstanschurch.org or on her cell 310-562-5746. Or you can leave a message on the Pastoral Care line at church [831-624-6646](tel:831-624-6646) ext 110.

Our Daughters of the King chapter welcomes your prayer requests. Prayer requests may be sent to stdcvdok@gmail.com. The Daughters pray for members of our parish as well as many others daily.



St. Dunstan's Staff

Rev Laurel Coote, Rector
rector@saintdunstanschurch.org

Elizabeth Buche, Parish Administrator
office@saintdunstanschurch.org

Dr. Fred Burgomaster, Director of Music
fburgo33@gmail.com

Lauren Proulx Leonoff, School Director
director@stdunstansmontessori.org

Carol Langland, Treasurer
treasurer@saintdunstanschurch.org

Joe Heston, Verger
jwheston@aol.com

Sue Peccianti, Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@saintdunstanschurch.org

St. Dunstan's Vestry



Susan Pitts, Senior Warden
Jackie Wendland, Jr. Warden
Mike Cervi
Jack Enbom
Sheila Hiebert
Carol Langland
George Lockwood
Perry Rosen

Help us get to know you by

Filling out a Pew Card

If you are visiting us, are new to St. Dunstan's, or if your contact information has changed, please fill out a Pew Card and drop it in the collection plate. Thanks!

THIS WEEK AT ST DUNSTAN'S

PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN TUESDAY - THURSDAY 9AM –1PM

Sunday, December 14

- 8:00am** Holy Eucharist
9:00am Choir Rehearsal
9:00am Advent Book Study—
The Light of the world
10:00am Holy Eucharist (live-streamed)
11:30am Coffee Hour

Monday, December 15

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 16

- 4:30pm** Zoom Compline
5:30pm Advent Book Study—
The Light of the world
7:30pm AA

Wednesday, December 17

- 10:00am** Conversation and Communion
Holy Eucharist
11:00am Advent Book Study—
The Light of the world
11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry
2:30pm Haiti Team Meeting

Thursday, December 18

- 3:00pm** Vestry Meeting
4:00pm Men's I-Help

Friday, December 19

Saturday, December 20

- 9:00am** Choir Rehearsal
4:00pm Women's I Help

Sunday, December 21

- 8:00am** Holy Eucharist
9:00am Choir Rehearsal
9:00am Advent Book Study—
The Light of the world
10:00am Holy Eucharist (live-streamed)
Christmas Pageant
11:30am Coffee Hour

View the entire parish calendar stdcv.org/calendar

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dec 1—Cindy Poole | Dec 22—Jennifer Lama |
| Dec 10—Gus Hawthorne | Dec 24—Taylor Hawthorne |
| Dec 16—Bob Young | Dec 27—Perry Rosen |
| Dec 17—Jack Lagier | Dec 30—Elin Rosen |
| Dec 20—Charlotte Cabral | |

Sermon Notes

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church

28005 Robinson Canyon Road, Carmel, California 93923

(831) 624-6646 office@saintdunstanschurch.org