



ST. DUNSTAN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 21, 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 Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

All With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.

Reader We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

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 with us, borne by Mary's flesh beyond all convention: give us the faith of Joseph to see the Spirit's work where the world sees only shame; to listen to the promise and waken to the cry of life renewed and love reborn; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. **Amen.**

Amen.

The people are seated.

Isaiah 7:10–16

The prophet Isaiah insists that King Ahaz of Judah will receive a sign from God, whether he wants it or not, the sign of a young woman bearing a son to be called Emmanuel. Ahaz was more inclined to depend on political alliances than on the Lord. Isaiah prophesied that, by the time the infant began to make his own choices, the Lord would destroy Judah's immediate enemies. Christians have seen the ultimate fulfillment of these prophetic words in the birth of Jesus.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1–7, 16-18

A lament and a plea to the Lord, the shepherd of Israel, that God will turn away divine anger and restore the people.

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Romans 1:1–7

Paul greets the new disciples in Rome and summarizes the gospel message. The prophecies concerning one to be descended from King David in human terms, and declared Son of God through the power of the Holy Spirit by resurrection from the dead, have been fulfilled. The Lord Jesus Christ has given grace and the commission of apostleship to bring peoples of all nations to faith and obedience.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

People Thanks be to God.

All Stand.

Matthew 1:18–25

The story of the birth of Jesus. While she was betrothed to Joseph, Mary finds that she is bearing a child. But an angel tells Joseph not to fear: this is the work of the Holy Spirit. The baby is to be named Jesus, which means "The Lord saves." The evangelist perceives this birth to be the fulfillment of an ancient prophecy which told of a virgin who would bear a son. The narrative makes clear the divine origin of this child who will save the people from their sins.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Laurel Coote

After the sermon a brief silence is kept.

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.

Join us for Christmas!



December 24th - Christmas Eve

4pm Family Service

7pm Choral Eucharist

December 25th - Christmas Day

9am An a Capella Christmas Morn

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 **TODAY!**



**Join us in Brock Hall at 10am
December/January Schedule**

December 21st—Christmas Pageant

January 18th

*Children's books and activity
clipboards are
available in the back of the church.*

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

**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!



***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.

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!

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.

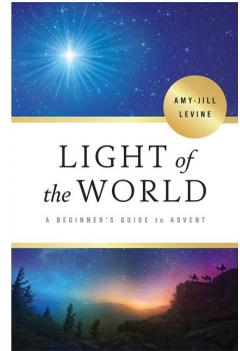
Sundays at 9:00am

Tuesdays at 4:30pm

Wednesdays (women's group) 11:00am

(Due to Christmas holiday, Wednesday’s group will meet on Tuesday at 11:0am)

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



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.

St. Dunstan’s Vestry

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



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

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 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.



THIS WEEK AT ST DUNSTAN'S

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

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

Monday, December 22

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 23

- 11:00am** Advent Book Study—
The Light of the world
4:30pm Zoom Compline
5:30pm Advent Book Study—
The Light of the world
7:30pm AA

Wednesday, December 24

- 4:00pm** Christmas Eve Family Service
Holy Eucharist
7:00pm Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist

Thursday, December 25

- 9:00am** An a Capella Christmas Morn
Service ~ Holy Eucharist

Friday, December 26

Saturday, December 27

- 9:00am** Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 28

- 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 Lessons and Carols
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