

“GIVE THE KING YOUR JUSTICE, O GOD,  
AND YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS TO THE ROYAL SON”  
PSALM 72:1



SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST | ALVISE VIVARINI | 1475 | OIL ON PANEL | ITALIAN



THE CHURCH OF THE  
INCARNATION

THE 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
DECEMBER 7TH, 2025

# *Welcome To* *The* **CHURCH** *of the* **INCARNATION**

*To all who are spiritually weary and desire rest,*

*To all who are mourning and long for comfort,*

*To all who struggle and desire victory,*

*To all who sin and need a Savior,*

*To all who are hungry and thirst for righteousness,*

*And to whomever will come,*

*This church opens her doors,*

*Offering welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

# ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

*God calls us out of the world and welcomes us into his presence. Opening our hearts to him in love, we respond by confessing our sins, receiving his forgiveness, and fully devoting our lives to him in praise and adoration.*

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*Congregational responses are indicated in **boldface**.*

*Please stand.*

## **O COME, O COME EMMANUEL**

*12th century Latin text; 13th century tune. Public domain.*

O come O come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come, thou Rod of Jesse free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
That trust thy mighty power to save  
And give them victory o'er the grave

O come thou Dayspring come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight

\*The acclamation joyfully acknowledges God's presence and reign, announcing that we gather at his invitation and under his authority.

\*This ancient prayer asks the Holy Spirit to cleanse our hearts so we may love God and magnify his Name with grace only he provides.

## **THE ACCLAMATION\***

Surely the Lord is coming soon.  
**Amen. Come Lord Jesus!**

## **THE COLLECT FOR PURITY\***

Let us pray.

**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 Ten  
Commandments, or  
Decalogue, reveal  
God's holiness and  
our sin. In Christ  
they guide grateful  
obedience. As Psalm  
119 declares, God's  
commands light our  
path.

## THE DECALOGUE\*

God spoke these words and said: "I am the  
Lord your God. You shall have no other gods but me."  
***Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to  
keep this law.***

"You shall not make for yourself any idol."  
***Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to  
keep this law.***

"You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in  
vain."  
***Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to  
keep this law.***

"Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy."  
***Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to  
keep this law.***

"Honor your father and your mother."  
***Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to  
keep this law.***

"You shall not murder."  
***Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to  
keep this law.***

"You shall not commit adultery."  
***Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to  
keep this law.***

"You shall not steal."  
***Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to  
keep this law.***

"You shall not bear false witness against your  
neighbor."  
***Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to  
keep this law.***

"You shall not covet."  
***Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these your  
laws in our hearts, we beseech you.***

## MASS OF LOVE AND MERCY - KYRIE

Gabriel Wanous © 2013 CCLI Lic. 11069486.

Kyrie eleison Kyrie eleison  
Lord have mercy

Christe eleison Christe eleison  
Christ have mercy  
Kyrie eleison Kyrie eleison  
Lord have mercy

\*In confession we  
tell the truth about  
ourselves because  
God has told us the  
truth about his mercy.  
Absolution proclaims  
Scripture's promise  
of full forgiveness in  
Christ.

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SIN\*

• • •

*Please kneel and silently confess your sins against God and your 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.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please stand.*

\*Added in the English  
Reformation, these  
sentences of Scripture  
assure repentant  
sinners of Christ's  
mercy and remind us  
that our confidence  
rests in his finished  
work alone.

## THE COMFORTABLE WORDS\*

• • •

## THE LOVE OF GOD

*Frederick M. Lehman, 1917. V.3 by Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai, 1050. Public Domain. CCLI License 11069486.*

The love of God is greater far  
Than tongue or pen can ever tell  
It goes beyond the highest star  
And reaches to the lowest hell  
The guilty pair bowed down with care  
God gave his Son to win  
His erring child he reconciled  
And pardoned from his sin

O love of God how rich and pure  
How measureless and strong  
It shall forevermore endure  
The saints and angels' song

When years of time shall pass away  
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall  
When men who here refuse to pray  
On rocks and hills and mountains call  
God's love so sure shall still endure  
All measureless and strong  
Redeeming grace to Adam's race  
The saints' and angels' song

Could we with ink the ocean fill  
And were the skies of parchment made  
Were every stalk on earth a quill  
And every man a scribe by trade  
To write the love of God above  
Would drain the ocean dry  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole  
Though stretched from sky to sky

\*The Collect gathers  
the themes of the  
readings and the date  
in the Church calendar  
into one petition,  
asking God to  
accomplish in us what  
Scripture promises.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY\*

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**  
Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Grant that the ministers and stewards

of your mysteries may likewise make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient toward the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world, we may be found a people acceptable in your sight; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **A COLLECT FOR CHILDREN**

***Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed our congregation with the joy and care of children: Give us courage, patience, and wisdom, as we bring them up in the faith, that they may never know a day apart from your love and care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Children ages 9-12 are dismissed for Children's Ministry.

Please be seated.

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

When Scripture is read, Christ addresses his people. Our posture shows that God's Word governs the Church. We stand for the Gospel reading because Jesus is the center and substance of the scriptures.

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### **ISAIAH 11:1-10**

After the Scripture is read:

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

Please stand.

### **PSALM 72:1-15**

<sup>72:1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the royal son!

***<sup>2</sup> May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice!***

<sup>3</sup> Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness!

***<sup>4</sup> May he defend the cause of the poor of the  
people, give deliverance to the children of the***

**needy, and crush the oppressor!**

<sup>5</sup> May they fear you while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

**<sup>6</sup> May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth!**

<sup>7</sup> In his days may the righteous flourish,  
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

**<sup>8</sup> May he have dominion from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth!**

<sup>9</sup> May desert tribes bow down before him,  
and his enemies lick the dust!

**<sup>10</sup> May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands  
render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and  
Seba bring gifts!**

<sup>11</sup> May all kings fall down before him,  
all nations serve him!

**<sup>12</sup> For he delivers the needy when he calls,  
the poor and him who has no helper.**

<sup>13</sup> He has pity on the weak and the needy,  
and saves the lives of the needy.

**<sup>14</sup> From oppression and violence he redeems their  
life, and precious is their blood in his sight.**

<sup>15</sup> Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be given to  
him!

**May prayer be made for him continually, and  
blessings invoked for him all the day!**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall  
be, world without end, Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **ROMANS 15:1-13**

*After the Scripture is read:*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## **MATTHEW 3:1-12**

*Before the Scripture is read:*

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

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

*After the Scripture is read:*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

## **THE SERMON**

*Please stand.*

\*The Creed unites  
us with the Church  
across time, faithfully  
summarizing Scripture  
and guarding the  
gospel as we confess  
one Lord, one faith,  
one hope.

## **THE NICENE CREED\***

***We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, visible and invisible.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten 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,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit  
and 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 worshiped  
 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.***

\*Intercessory prayer  
 is the priestly task  
 of the people of  
 God. Because Christ  
 intercedes for us, we  
 bring the needs of  
 Church, world, and  
 neighbor to the Father  
 who delights to give  
 good gifts.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE\*

*The leader will invite us to pray.*

*At the end of each petition:*

Lord in your mercy  
***Hear our prayer.***

. . .

***O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your  
 people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with  
 compassion upon us and all who turn to you for  
 help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to  
 you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now  
 and for ever. Amen.\****

\*Sharing peace  
 declares Christ's  
 finished reconciliation.  
 Before Communion,  
 we express gospel  
 unity: those at peace  
 with God live at peace  
 with one another.

## THE PEACE\*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
***And with your spirit.***

Let us greet one another in the name of our Lord.

*Greet those around you with some version of these words:  
 "The peace of Christ be with you."*

*Parents pick up infants to 9 year-olds from upstairs at this time.*

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*We give because  
God first gave to  
us. Offering our  
gifts—and ourselves—  
expresses gratitude  
and acknowledges  
that our lives belong  
wholly to God.

## THE OFFERTORY\*

. . .

### ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY

*Brenton Brown & Glenn Robertson © 1998 Vineyard Songs CCLI 11069486.*

All who are thirsty  
All who are weak  
Come to the fountain  
Dip your heart in the stream of life

Let the pain and the sorrow  
Be washed away  
In the waves of his mercy  
As deep cries out to deep  
(We sing)

Come Lord Jesus come  
Come Lord Jesus come

Holy Spirit come  
Holy Spirit come

As deep cries out to deep  
As deep cries out to deep  
As deep cries out to deep we sing

*Please stand.*

### PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

*Words: Thomas Ken, Tune: Old Hundredth. 1674; Public domain.*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise him all creatures here below  
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost  
Amen.

## CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*God welcomes his people to feast at his table. This meal, a means  
of grace for all who receive by faith, is a rehearsal of the central act  
of the Christian faith: Christ's death on the cross — his body broken  
and his blood shed as a sacrifice for our sins.*

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\*Sursum Corda means “Lift up your hearts.” By the Spirit we celebrate and remember the once-for-all offering Christ our ascended high priest offers to the Father on our behalf.

## SURSUM CORDA\*

The Lord be with you.

***And with your spirit.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them up to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God:

***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

. . .

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## SANCTUS

*Music by Douglas A. Byler © 2022.*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory***

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord***

***Hosanna,\* hosanna, in the highest***

***Hosanna, hosanna, in the highest***

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might***

***Heaven and earth are filled with your glory***

\*Consecration is when God uses ordinary means—bread, and wine—to communicate extraordinary grace. We ask the Spirit to set apart these gifts, not by altering their substance, but by using them to unite us to Christ in faith.

## THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION\*

. . .

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Christ has died.***

***Christ is risen.***

***Christ will come again.***

. . .

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

***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 forever and ever. Amen.***

\*The Fraction is the breaking of the consecrated bread, recalling Christ's body broken for us. It is a visible sign that the benefits of his finished work are freely given to believers through faith.

## THE FRACTION\*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed, once and for all upon the Cross.

***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

## THE DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who come with faith in Christ and repentance for sin are welcome to share in this feast. If for any reason you would prefer to abstain, cross your arms over your chest, and one of the servers will pray a blessing for you.

Come forward to receive communion row by row. If you do not wish to drink from the common cup, take a small cup at the front of the aisle as you go forward. When arriving at the front of the communion line, place your hands in front of you to receive a piece of bread, and consume it. After receiving the bread, proceed to the first server to take a drink from the common cup (please do not dip your bread) or to the second server with your plastic cup to receive a pour of wine. Grape juice is available at the far right station and is available poured only.

## COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY

*Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore; CCLI 11069486.*

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
In the dawning of the King  
He the theme of heaven's praises  
Robed in frail humanity  
In our longing in our darkness  
Now the light of life has come  
Look to Christ who condescended  
Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
He the perfect Son of Man  
In his living in his suffering  
Never trace nor stain of sin  
See the true and better Adam  
Come to save the hell-bound man  
Christ the great and sure fulfillment  
Of the law in him we stand

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
Christ the Lord upon the tree  
In the stead of ruined sinners  
Hangs the Lamb in victory  
See the price of our redemption  
See the Father's plan unfold  
Bringing many sons to glory  
Grace unmeasured love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
Slain by death the God of life  
But no grave could e'er restrain him  
Praise the Lord he is alive  
What a foretaste of deliverance  
How unwavering our hope  
Christ in power resurrected  
As we will be when he comes

### **WHEN YOUR KINGDOM COMES**

*Paul Zach, Phillip Zach, and Kate Bluett; CCLI 7116570*

Ev'ry wrong will be turned to right  
You'll wipe the tears from ev'ry eye  
When your kingdom comes.  
Dark will make way for the dawn  
All sorrows will be gone  
When your kingdom comes.

Night will turn to day  
And your church will sing  
Take your bride away  
When your kingdom comes  
You will make a way  
Through our darkest day  
Shadows fly away  
When your kingdom comes

Every trouble we have known  
We will lay before your throne  
When your kingdom comes  
We will bring you all our grief  
Ev'ry tear will be redeemed  
When your kingdom comes

## **LORD MOST HIGH**

*Don Harris & Gary Sadler. © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. CCLI License 11069486.*

From the ends of the earth (echo)  
From the depths of the sea (echo)  
From the heights of the heavens (echo)  
Your name be praised  
From the hearts of the weak (echo)  
From the shouts of the strong (echo)  
From the lips of all people (echo)  
This song we raise Lord

Throughout the endless ages  
You will be crowned with praises  
Lord most high  
Exalted in every nation  
Sovereign of all creation  
Lord most high be magnified

From the salt of the earth (echo)  
From the light of the world (echo)  
From the hearts you redeemed (echo)  
One voice we raise  
To the Father of Lights (echo)  
To the Son on the throne (echo)  
To the Spirit of Jesus (echo)  
One Lord we praise now

\*Fed by Christ in  
Word and Sacrament,  
we ask God to send  
us out as witnesses.  
Grace always leads to  
mission.

## **THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER\***

Let us pray.

***Heavenly Father,  
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 your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal Kingdom.***

***And now, Father, send us out to do the work you  
have given us to do, to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.***

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

\*The final blessing is  
God's promise spoken  
over his people. We  
go out under his  
protection and with  
his peace.

## **THE BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL\***

*Please stand.*

All our problems:

***We send to the cross of Christ!***

All our difficulties:

***We send to the cross of Christ!***

All the devil's works:

***We send to the cross of Christ!***

All our hopes:

***We set on the risen Christ!***

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love  
of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the  
blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the  
Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.  
***Amen.***

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the  
power of the Holy Spirit.

***Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!***



# Christmas Week

*AT The CHURCH of the INCARNATION*

As we joyfully celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior  
and receive him anew in our hearts, our homes, and our church,  
our plans for worship are as follows:

*December 24: Christmas Eve  
Lessons & Carols followed by cocoa & cookies*

4:00 pm and 6:00 pm - no child care

# NEWS AND EVENTS

## Advent Devotional Guide

Be sure to grab an Advent Devotional Guide to assist you in your study during the Advent season. Scan the QR code for a digital version.



**ADVENT  
GUIDE**

## Advent Morning Prayer

During the season of Advent, we will host Morning Prayer starting at 7:30am Monday-Friday in the Prayer Room. Enter through the Elizabeth Street doors.

## Birth Circle

Birth Circle is supportive and informal space where women gather to share pregnancy and birth experiences, and is open to all women interested in hearing about the incredible, joyous and often difficult things that these experiences bring. Monday, December 8th in the lobby at 7pm.

## Youth Fam

Youth is back this week 12/3 from 6-8pm. Dinner provided! All 6th-12th graders welcome.

## Volunteer January-June 2026

Thanks to all who have signed up to volunteer for the first half of 2026. We have some more spots to fill:

Coffee and Bagel Team (6)

Security/Doorkeepers (5)

Vergers (Sunday Morning Coordinators) (3)

Prayer Team (6)

Landscapers (3)

Children's Ministry also needs the following, adults 18+ only:

9am Service: 3-6 year old assistant (1)

10:45am Service: Nursery (2), 6-9 year old assistants (2)

Hallway Monitors (4)



**VOLUNTEER  
FORM**

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Dec 8** Birth Circle

**Dec 24** Christmas Eve Services

*\* Staff email addresses can be found on the back cover of the worship guide.*

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

All children's ministry is staffed by trained and screened volunteers.

**Nursery:** Also open for parents/caretakers and infants, anytime during the service for nursing or fussy babies. Located upstairs, midway down the hall to your left. Available throughout the service. You can bring your child prior to the service. Pickup at the Peace.

**Toddler Room:** For steady walkers up to 3 years old. Located upstairs; last classroom on the right. Check-in located outside the classroom. You can bring your child prior to the service. Pickup at the Peace.

### **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

**3–6 years:** Atrium Level 1. Parents drop kids off upstairs; check in outside the classrooms before the service begins. Pickup at the Peace.

**6–9 years:** Atrium Level 2. Parents drop kids off upstairs; check in outside the classrooms before service begins. Pickup at the Peace.

**9–12 years: New City Catechism.** After the Collect, children will be dismissed to their class upstairs. Prior to the Lord's Supper, they will return to the service.

TITHES & OFFERINGS			
	November	YTD	2025
Received	\$109,759	\$ 854,453	\$ 854,453
Budgeted	\$ 83,444	\$ 917,884	\$1,001,328
Variance	\$ 26,315	\$ (63,431)	\$(146,875)
RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND			
Balance Jan 2025		\$ 50,865	
Received		\$ 53,708	
Assistance Provided		\$ (50,327)	
Balance Oct 2025		\$ 54,246	



Office hours: 10 to 4, Monday through Thursday  
Ring bell at Federal Street entrance

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