**Nativity Worships**

**February 28, 2021**

[Facebook Livestream](https://www.facebook.com/Nativity-in-San-Rafael-113940705355878/videos/?ref=page_internal)



333 Ellen Drive

San Rafael, CA 94903

www.nativityonthehill.org

The Rev. Kirsten Snow Spalding, Rector

The Rev. Lynn Oldham Robinett, Assisting Priest

The Rev. Scott Gambrill Sinclair, Assisting Priest

The Rev. Rebecca Morehouse, Deacon

**PRELUDE *Prelude in a minor Chopin***

The Word of God

**Entrance Rite**

**Entrance Hymn*O Love of God, how strong and true (Dunedin)* (H 455)**

1 O love of God, how strong and true,  
eternal and yet ever new;  
uncomprehended and unbought,  
beyond all knowledge and all thought.  
  
2 O wide-embracing, wondrous Love,  
we read thee in the sky above;  
we read thee in the earth below,  
in seas that swell and streams that flow.  
  
3 We read thee best in him who came  
to bear for us the cross of shame,  
sent by the Father from on high,  
our life to live, our death to die.  
  
4 We read thy power to bless and save  
e'en in the darkness of the grave;  
still more in resurrection light  
we read the fullness of thy might.

**Opening Acclamation*S 81 Opening Acclamation (Hurd)* (BCP p. 323)**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

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**Collect for Purity and Great Commandments (BCP p. 323)**

*The Celebrant says*

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

**Opening Anthem or Song of Praise*S 84 Kyrie eleison (Greek) (Plainsong/Hurd)* (BCP p. 324)**

*The following is sung, all standing*

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**The Collect of the Day (BCP p. 325)**

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| Celebrant | The Lord be with you. |
| People | And with thy spirit. |
| Celebrant | Let us pray. |

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from thy ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy Word, Jesus Christ thy Son; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**The Lessons**

**First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of Genesis.

1When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. 2And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” 3Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 4“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 5No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 6I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 7I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”  
  15God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

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| Reader | The Word of the Lord. |
| People | Thanks be to God. |

*Silence may follow.*

**Psalm: Psalm 22:22-30**

*Remain seated.*

22Praise the Lord, you that fear him; \*  
  stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;  
  all you of Jacob’s line, give glory.  
 23For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;  
 neither does he hide his face from them; \*  
  but when they cry to him he hears them.  
 24My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*  
  I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.  
 25The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
 and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \*  
  “May your heart live for ever!”  
 26All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*  
  and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.  
 27For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*  
  he rules over the nations.  
 28To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
  all who go down to the dust fall before him.  
 29My soul shall live for him;  
 my descendants shall serve him; \*  
  they shall be known as the Lord‘s for ever.  
 30They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
  the saving deeds that he has done.

**Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

13The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.  
  16For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 17as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” 19He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. 20No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” 23Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, 24but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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| --- | --- |
| Reader | The Word of the Lord. |
| People | Thanks be to God. |

*Silence may follow.*

**Sequence Hymn*Take up your cross, the Savior said (Bourbon)* (H 675)**

*All stand.*

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**Gospel: Mark 8:31-38**

*All stand.*

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| Deacon | The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. |
| People | Glory be to thee, O Lord. |

31[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.32He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”  
  34He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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| Deacon | The Gospel of the Lord. |
| People | Praise be to thee, O Christ. |

**The Sermon (BCP p. 326) *The Rev. Kirsten Snow Spalding***

**The Creed (BCP p. 326)**

*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.

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.

**The Prayers of the People (BCP p. 328)**

*All remain standing.*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ’s Church and the world.

*After each paragraph of this prayer, the People may make an appropriate response, as directed.*

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Diocesan Bishop Marc, our priests Lynn, Scott and Kirsten and our Deacon Rebecca, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially our President Joe and our Governor Gavin, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor our parish members:  Carissa, Marge, Juliette, Mary, Dan, Donna, Jim, Leslie, Henry and Duane.  And our families, friends and neighbors remembering especially Colton, Ellen, Katherine, Ed, Daniel, Marco, John, Thomas, Marg, Mary O, Mary P, Jill, Doug, Barbara, Nathaniel, Les, Polly, Eric and Julie, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Additional petitions and thanksgivings may be included here.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, remembering especially Jane Weidman and Elizabeth Flagerman beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ’s sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

**Confession of Sin (BCP p. 330)**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against thee

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved thee with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in thy will,

and walk in thy ways,

to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto 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.

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

**The Peace (BCP p. 332)**

*All stand.*

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| Celebrant | The peace of the Lord be always with you. |
| People | And with thy spirit. |

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**Announcements**

Bible Study Group is now reading:  [The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For and Believe](https://nativityonthehill.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b5c898c53d72904fec86a1326&id=a53c59969a&e=a28f91e05a), by [Richard Rohr](https://nativityonthehill.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b5c898c53d72904fec86a1326&id=03a35b2de2&e=a28f91e05a). The group meets on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m., via [Zoom](https://nativityonthehill.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b5c898c53d72904fec86a1326&id=dd53513761&e=a28f91e05a).

We are planning for the Spring Fling on March 26th (the last Friday of Lent). We are looking for performances, short monologues, or instructive lessons for our fundraiser. Call Susan Pick or send an email to susanrows@yahoo.com.

Zoom Coffee Hour following our service this morning can be joined at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/931317924>

We will with thanksgiving receive offerings of Nativity pledges and plate today.  You can contribute by sending a check to the church or by using the “Give” button on our website,[www.nativityonthehill.org](http://www.nativityonthehill.org).

All who participate in this Holy Eucharist virtually receive the full benefits of the sacrament by coming with the intention of being united with Christ and one another. (BCP 457).

The Holy Communion

**Offertory Sentence (BCP p. 343)**

*The Celebrant says*

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

**Offertory Hymn*Take my life, and let it be (Hollingside)* (H 707)**

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**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Sursum Corda*S 112 Lift up your hearts* (BCP p. 333)**

*The People remain standing.*

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**Proper Preface (BCP p. 333)**

*Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**Sanctus (BCP p. 333)**

*Celebrant and People*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Words of Institution (BCP p. 334)**

*The people kneel or stand.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ’s holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. AMEN.

**The Lord’s Prayer (BCP p. 336)**

*The Celebrant then continues*

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

*People and Celebrant*

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 Breaking of the Bread**

**Fraction Anthem (BCP p. 337)**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

grant us thy peace.

**Prayer of Humble Access (BCP p. 337)**

*The following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying this prayer*

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

**Invitation (BCP p. 338)**

*The Celebrant says*

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.

**Distribution (BCP p. 338)**

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ’s Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

**Post-Communion Prayer (BCP p. 339)**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*The People may join is saying this prayer*

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

**Post-Communion Hymn*Will you come and follow me (Mary Alexandra)* (WLP 757)**

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**Birthday Prayer**

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant N. as he begins another year. Grant that he may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen his trust in your goodness all the days of his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Solemn Prayer Over the People**

Bow down before the Lord.

The people kneel and the Presider says one of the following prayers:

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Dismissal (BCP p. 340)**

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|  | Let us go forth in the name of Christ. |
| People | Thanks be to God. |

**POSTLUDE *Prelude in E Major Chopin***

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