

## Welcome to First Pres SLO!

We are a Christian community in the heart of this city, open to all people seeking Christ's touch and blessing. A healthy church is built on a foundation of Jesus Christ, and expressed through *fellowship, worship, discipleship* and *mission*. As God's church we exist to fellowship sincerely, worship actively, grow in our knowledge and understanding of Jesus, and to offer ourselves in service to this community and the world.

Welcome—we're glad you've decided to join us today.

### In worship we...

Praise the Lord in song, blending old and new and in-between  
Profess our faith in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
Confess our sins and receive words of pardon  
Hear the Word of God proclaimed in preaching  
Offer prayers of petition and thanks  
Share freely in the sacraments: communion and baptism  
Give gifts of time and financial resources in support of the church's work.

### An Invitation to Prayer

Prayer is a dynamic and vital part of our journey of faith in Jesus Christ. We pray, not as we shop for goods—with a list in hand and limited funds to spend—but rather as faithful people bringing our lives before God, whose love and power and resources have no end. In prayer we learn to align our vision and desires with those of God himself, and in the process become mature disciples, ready for service.

*We invite you to join us in this journey of discovery!*

### Please pray:

For the vision and ministry of this church  
For the specific needs of individuals and families in our community  
For the world—for peace, justice and the spread of the Gospel of Jesus.



## Service for the Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023



Rev. John A. D'Elia, Pastor

Church Office: (805) 543-5451 | Email: [churchoffice@fpcslo.org](mailto:churchoffice@fpcslo.org)

For more information visit our website,  
[www.fpcslo.org](http://www.fpcslo.org)

# WORSHIP AT FIRST PRES

Thank you for joining us!

## PRELUDE

Dr. Scott Glysson  
"Christmas Time Is Here", Vince Guaraldi  
*Please use this time for quiet reflection*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

## WELCOME AND INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Jen Rabenaldt

## ADVENT READING

Representing Women's Ministries:  
Nellie Beecher, Pamalee Brady, Gloria DeKleine, Peggy Estes

## WORSHIP IN SONG

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (#5)  
"Before the Throne of God Above"

## THE CONFESSION AND PARDON

Karen Wiles

## NEWS OF THE CHURCH

## PRAYER

Erin Dufault-Hunter

## ANTHEM

"Es wird ein Stern aus Jacob aufgeh'n", Felix Mendelssohn

Choir

## WE CONFESS OUR FAITH

"Apostles' Creed"

## SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 2: 1-10

## MESSAGE

"The Politics of Joy"  
Luke 1:31-56

Erin Dufault-Hunter

## OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory

Bell Choir

"Rejoice, Rejoice!" and "Away in a Manger" arr. Cathy Moklebust  
*Please stand as we sing the Doxology(#592)*

## SONG OF COMMITMENT

"The First Nowell" (#56)

## DECLARATION OF MISSION AND BEDICTION

*Friends, what is our mission?*

Our mission is to glorify Jesus Christ and to be instruments of God's healing, reconciling, life-giving presence in the world.

## POSTLUDE

Dr. Scott Glysson  
"Angels We Have Heard on High" arr. Randall Hartsell

**Participants: Participants:** Jen Rabenaldt, Dr. Scott Glysson, Andrew Vigil, Lloyd Esola, Sean Anderson, Craig Updegrave, Enrique Ordinola, Melissa Scarpelli, Lauren Webb, Ryan Miller, Karen Wiles, Erin Dufault-Hunter