## The Witness

Volume 27, Issue 12

Welcoming Worshipping Working

December 2023

#### Special points of interest:

#### Sunday

8:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Service with coffee hour following the service

#### Wednesday 12:15 PM Service

lishing you a very Merry Christmas & a happy and prosperous 2024

#### Inside this issue:

Advent Retreat	8
Annual Meeting	9
Bible Selections	5
Caroling	5&6
Celebrations	7
Services	9
Toy Drive	3
Vestry	8

## Living the Liturgical Year

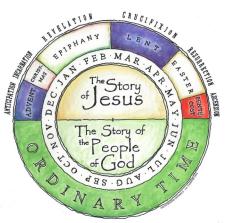
By The Rev. Ian M. Delinger, Rector

One of the joys of The Episcopal Church is living the liturgical year. Not everyone is familiar with the liturgical calendar, and many who are used to the liturgical year may have never been taught "why and what for". Here's a brief primer.

The Church's liturgical calendar, like almost everything we do on Sunday morning,

evolved over time. The lectionary (the 3-year cycle of Sunday morning readings), while ancient, became important at the Reformation when many clergy were just cherry-picking Bible versus on which to preach. This developed into the Lectionary being shaped around the life and ministry of Jesus as we read in the Gospels. (Exact timings are not assumed here!)

The Church Year begins with Advent. We spend 4 Sundays anticipating the coming of the Messiah. Since the Church is the living Body of Christ and not a gathering for nostalgic



sentiments, we also spend time in Advent anticipating the *return* of the Messiah. This is sometimes challenging because the imagery in our messianic scriptures is not the most relatable with how the world has changed since they were written. That's why theology is often more valuable than literalism. You have heard me preach that I believe that Christians are more "Advent People" than "Resurrection People", but I won't re-hash that here.

Christmas marks the arrival of the Messiah. It's not the culmination of Advent or the "December holiday season"; it's the beginning of Christ's reign on earth. In this very short season (Christmas Day, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas, and *sometimes* the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas or the Baptism of Christ), we reflect on the profound implications of God coming into the world! It points us forward into a life with Jesus, not backward to the manger.

The Season of Epiphany focuses on the  $\dot{\eta} \epsilon \pi \iota \varphi \dot{\alpha} \nu \iota \alpha$  (Greek) *ephiania* (Latin) or "revealing" or "manifestation" of Jesus as the Messiah. Some years focus on the miracles of Jesus; in January 2024, the Gospel readings focus on Jesus' calling of His Disciples and His teaching and healings with them.

#### (Continued from front page)

Lent is the season of repentance when we mimic Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness being tempted by satan. The season of fasting, almsgiving and prayer reminds us that we are called to selflessness in the same way that Jesus selflessly gave Himself for our salvation. Even though Sundays are always a celebration of The Resurrection, the Sundays in Lent remind us that Resurrection cannot happen without persecution and Death. We are drawn deeper and deeper into that with the liturgical drama of Holy Week: Palm Sunday through Holy Saturday. We re-live Jesus' final week when He rode a donkey into Jerusalem, had Supper with His friends and instituted The Eucharist, was betrayed and Crucified. Then the confusion and loneliness of Holy Saturday – a day on which nothing would have been done because it was the sabbath – is broken by cataclysm of The Resurrection!

Easter Day and the Easter Season are our celebration of Christ's conquering of death...not for Himself, but for us! Most people say that Christmas Eve is the holiest night of the year. For me, for a long time, Easter Eve is the holiest night of the year. It was in the darkness of that night/morning that the curtain in the Temple was torn, and Jesus was raised from the tomb. Throughout the season, we reflect on the post-Resurrection ministry of Jesus and how, indeed, Christians are Resurrection People, also.

The Easter Season *does* come with a culmination, and that's Ascension Day. It's always on a Thursday because the Gospels tell us that Jesus' post-Resurrection ministry was 50 days. But in modern times, we move that celebration to Sunday. Pentecost is the culmination of *all* of Jesus' earthly *training*, preparing His followers to spread the Good News in Him. It's the day when the Holy Spirit gave birth to the "Church", and our reminder that we are called to be disciples and spread the Good News, too: again, not just nostalgic for the event of the Day of Pentecost.

Finally, we have the Season of Pentecost / the Sundays after Pentecost / the "Green Season". It's where the bulk of Jesus' earthly ministry gets taught. In 2023, we learned from Jesus' ministry through the writings of Matthew. In 2024, we will learn from Jesus' ministry through the writings of Mark. Can you guess which Gospel we will work through in the summer of 2025? Yes, Luke! John's Gospel gets sprinkled around over the three years. This long season *does* come with a culmination. The Sunday before Advent is Christ the King. We reflect on Christ's reign over all, a reign, not of control and submission, but manifested as God's unconditional and never-ending love and the promise of Eternal Life! And as we anticipate that glorious period, we turn our hearts toward Christ's return as Ruler of All as we move into ... wait for it ... Advent!

Each season is described in brief in the inside cover of the corresponding Sunday service booklet. Living the Church's cycle isn't just a way to mandate order in our worship. It's a tool to help us engage in the life and ministry of Jesus and, over time, begin to pattern our own lives similarly. Each year, each season should/ could/might draw you deeper into your life in Christ, that you have your own epiphanies of Jesus in your world and your life, that you become more "*dead to sin and alive in Christ*", and anticipate with joy your own Resurrection to Eternal Life in Him.

#### Sunday Servers' Training – January 20, 2024

10am – Ushers & Lectors 11am – LEMs All existing Ushers, Lectors and LEMs should attend this training. If anyone is interested in becoming an Usher, Lector or LEM, please contact Fr. Ian to discuss.



#### For Kids From Kids Toy Drive

Once again this year the kids of St. Stephen's want all of us to think of children in need around us and contribute to their Toy Drive. Donations of new, unwrapped toys, games, clothes and gift cards will be collected at the back of the church at each service through December 18th and given to children served by various local children's services organization through Operation Santa, and also directly to CAPSLO/40Prado.

Children's Wish Lists are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Don't feel bound by the "wish list." Get whatever you're comfortable purchasing. Sometimes children dream big, but they're always excited and grateful for anything they receive. If you'd like wish lists mailed or emailed to you, or have any questions about the Toy Drive, contact Kathleen (kapennington@netscape.net, 805-546-0880)

Of course, checks dropped into the collection plate or mailed to the church are welcome, too. Write "Toy Drive" on the memo line and let us do the shopping for you. The church's mailing address is: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1344 Nipomo, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.



### An Invitation to Dance

When listening to Bishop Lucinda's sermon at St. Stephen's on Nov. 5, my heart came alive with joy when the Bishop invited us to dance. I instantly wrote "DANCE: an invitation to dance" on my bulletin so that I would remember that moment when I began to choose music for December. I thought, "What a more wonderful way to go through Advent than to dance?"

I began looking for Advent texts set to certain time signatures. Many of the time signatures that are used for music today derive their origins from specific dances. We still commonly use "Waltz Time," or 3 / 4 time (ONE, two, three; ONE, two, three). The Irish jig and reel have specific time signatures that are designed to highlight the steps of each individual dance. J. S. Bach's instrumental suites are comprised of dance movements: Allemande, Courante, Sarabande, Bourrée, and many more. Some dances are slow and meditative, and others are fast and joyful.

As always, before I began reading the scriptures to choose music for our Sundays, I prayed for enlightenment and guidance with my vision of dance. Well, I tell you, the Holy Spirit got to work right away and sped me to five fantastic new pieces for our choir and Choral Scholars to sing for you this month! The texts are fixed on the Advent theme of longing and waiting but do so through a way that gives hope through dance.

Psalm 149:3-9 (New International Version (NIV)) tells us:

"Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with timbrel and harp. For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory."

Like Zorba the Greek, it doesn't matter what life deals out to you, you can still DANCE!

-Cassandra Tarantino, Director of Music December 2023

# Thank you for all that you do

## Hands on Stewardship

**Thank you to** Rosey Parks for assisting the Vestry with the Annual Giving Campaign Team.

**Thank you to** All who supported the Food Bank Turkey Trot and the Thanksgiving Dinners for the residents of Transitions Mental Health who are

on either side of us.

**Thank you to** Adele Butterfield, Bill Crewe, Kay Lewis, Kathleen Pennington and Elizabeth Potter for counting the collection and preparing the deposits during November.

**Thank you to** Cheryl & Craig McCollum, Kathryn Bumpass & Elizabeth Potter and the St. Stephen's Choir for hosting coffee hour in November.

**Thank you to** Kathleen Pennington, Elizabeth Potter, Jennifer Sayre and Gail Taylor for teaching Sunday School in November.

**Thank you to** Ethan Stan and Spud Schroeder for taking the trash cans to the street for pick up each week.

**Thank you to** Gail Taylor, Nancy Deovlet, Elizabeth Potter, and Cheryl McCollum who folded, taped and labeled The Witness.

Thank you to Elizabeth Potter for helping with the celebration cards.

**Thank you to** Clark Lewis and Craig McCollum for picking up the no cook bags to distribute to those in need.

**Thank you to** the Clark Lewis, Craig McCollum and Beau Parks for live streaming the Sunday Services in November.

Thank you for reading The Witness and watching the services at home.



#### The flower for December is Holly.

Holly is a symbol of protection and respect.

"Recall the crown of thorns Jesus wore, red berries remind of the blood shed for our salvation, the shape of the leaves resemble the flame which symbolizes the love God has for his creation." - From the website The Flower Patch



#### General Information

**The Witness** is a monthly newsletter published by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, San Luis Obispo, CA to provide information about the parish to the congregation. Subscriptions are free to anyone. Send request along with your name and mailing address to the church office. Donations to help offset distribution costs are appreciated.

Make checks payable to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Church's e-mail address is: office@ststephensslo.org

**Contribution of articles is encouraged.** Please e-mail submissions to witness@ststephensslo.org The deadline for emailed submission of articles is the third Friday of the month. Email any questions to witness@ststephensslo.org © Copyright 2023 by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. All rights reserved.

POSTMASTER: Please send address corrections to: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1344 Nipomo Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3935

If you would like to make a donation to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

You can scan this QR Code with your phone and be taken directly to our PayPal site or go to paypal.me/ststephensslo



Scan. Pay. Go.

#### **Come Christmas Caroling!**

Sing along with us, or bring your guitar, drum, finger cymbals, or other instrument! We'll have some jingle bells, tambourines and music with chord symbols in easy keys for sing-and-play along on familiar Carols. Join in on any or all of the dates below, whatever best fits your schedule. Meet at the facility 10 minutes before we're scheduled, or come to the church parking lot 20 minutes before to carpool.

> Saturday December 2, 2-3 pm Mission View Health Ctr 1425 Woodside Drive

Sunday December 3, 3-4 pm Sydney Creek 1234 Laurel Lane

Sunday December 10, 4:15-5pm Garden Creek 73 Broad St

Saturday, December 16, 3-4pm **Avila Senior Living** 475 Marsh St.

Tuesday, December 5, 6-7pm San Luis Post Acute 3033 August St.

At most locations we've been asked to lead a sing-along, sitting with the residents gathered in a main room. At San Luis Post Acute (formerly Bella Vista Care Center) we've been asked to wander the halls bringing Christmas joy to those in their rooms. If walking for an hour will be difficult for you, we can bring a chair for you to use at our stops.

Questions? contact Kathleen, 805-546-0880, kapennington@netscape.net





## **Bible Selections for December**

		3-Dec-23	10-Dec-23	17-Dec-23
HOLY BIBLE		Advent 1B	Advent 2B	Advent 3B
	1st Reading	Isaiah 64:1-9	Isaiah 40:1-11	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
	Psalm	Psalm 80:1-7,16-18	Psalm 85:1-2,8-13	Psalm 126
	2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	2 Peter 3:8-15a	1 Thess 5:16-24
	Gospel	Mark 13:24-37	Mark 1:1-8	John 1:6-8,19-28
	20-Dec-23	24-Dec-23	25-Dec-23	31-Dec-23
	Blue Christmas	Advent 4B	Christmas Day	1 Christmas B
1st Reading	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Isaiah 62:6-12	Isaiah 61:10-62.3
Psalm	Psalm 13	Canticle 15	Psalm 97	Psalm 147:13-21
2nd Reading	An Unending Love by			
	Rami M. Shapiro	Romans 16:25-27	Titus 3:4-7	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
Gospel	Luke 1:67-79	Luke 1:26-38	Luke 2:1-20	John 1:1-18

## Food

The Judeo-Christian tradition has encouraged us to share our food with the hungry. This quiz asks you to identify food in the Bible.

1. The risen Christ ate a breakfast of \_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. The prodigal son feasted upon a \_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. John the Baptist ate locusts and \_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Joseph had \_\_\_\_\_\_ stored for the seven lean years.

5. Hosea called Ephraim "a \_\_\_\_\_\_ not turned."

6. The serpent was condemned to eat \_\_\_\_\_

7. Israelites ate roasted \_\_\_\_\_\_ for Passover.

8. The Pharisees didn't like Jesus' disciples eating \_\_\_\_\_\_ on the sabbath.

- 9. The friend in the parable wanted three \_\_\_\_\_\_ at midnight.
- 10. Those who "conquer" will eat of the \_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 12:3-13	qwel	L
----------------	------	---

:sr9w8nA					
z fish John 21:4-14 4 gra					
2 fatted calf Luke 15:23 5 cal					
ub 9 איום אזפא אזפע אישט א טע פ					

From Bible Quizzes for Church Newsletters by Frank R. Hoffman Copyright 1987 by Baker Book House Company

## St. Stephen's Caroling Sing-A-Long



Kick off the holiday season with the St. Stephen's Chancel Choir!

Sing your favorite carols and hymns while sipping on wassail.

Monday, December 18th 5:30pm Ramsden Hall



## **December Celebrations**

#### Anniversaries

23-Dec Dick & Kate Riggins

#### Birthdays

4-Dec	Eli Enney
5-Dec	Stephanie Olsen
11-Dec	Kathanne Lynch
13-Dec	Andrew Johnson
15-Dec	Isabelle Preston
27-Dec	Larry Myrick

Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.

Song: The Holly & The Ivy



Because the Holidays are not always joyous



12.15pm and 5.30pm in-person at 1344 Nipomo SLO or online facebook.com/StStephensSLO/Live (5:30pm)

A time to acknowledge hurt, sadness, anger, confusion and loneliness, and to look toward the hope in Jesus Christ



## **Christmas Flowers**

Each year the Altar Guild decorates our church with beautiful greenery and vibrant flowers for Christmas Day. If you would like to donate toward the Christmas flowers, please fill out this form with a check made payable to:

> St. Stephen's Episcopal Church on the memo line write: Christmas Flowers

Place it in the offering plate or mail it to: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church 1344 Nipomo Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Please Print Clearly:

Name of Donor:

Memorial or thanksgiving to be noted in Christmas Service Booklet:

Deadline for inclusion in the Service Booklet is December 18th

1 dr

Hint: You can use this form to mail in, drop off at the office or place in the offering plate.

## From the Vestry

The Vestry meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month (usually) to discuss the business affairs of the parish. Here are some highlights of the meeting on November 19, 2023:

- \* While the Re-Fresh Campaign has been very successful, the day-to-day operating funds are almost depleted.
- \* At the end of the Annual Giving Campaign, there are at least 20 fewer pledges than in years past.
- The Stewardship and Mission Teams were appointed to begin work on that section of the Strategic Plan.



The next meeting is December 17. If you have an issue that you think should be addressed by the Vestry, please submit your request no less than 2 weeks before the next Vestry Meeting to the Rector or Wardens. All Vestry Meetings are open to members of the parish. Requests to speak can be made, approved on an individual basis. Executive Sessions are closed to Vestry members only, including the Clerk, Treasurer and Rector.

## Fellowship Hour

For the next couple of months, the St. Stephen's family is going to carve out time to simply enjoy one another's company. On the last Monday of the month, we'll have an hour-long "event" starting at 5:30pm. Any person from the congregation can volunteer to take a month and host whatever event they want to host. Learn how to knit; game night; look-how-cute-my-grandkids-are night ... whatever. The host will decide how hospitality will be offered: They can provide snacks or a meal, or ask people to bring stuff, or have nothing. It will be up to them. If people want to mingle more after the event is finished, they can do so. Cassie will host a Carol Sing-a-Long in December. If you want to host, get in touch with Susannah Williams at susannahmercy@gmail.com. Thanks to Cheryl McCollum for hosting the November Poetry Reading evening.



## Advent Retreat

On Saturday, December 9, The Rev Canon Martha Korienek, Canon to the Ordinary, will lead a retreat on the Mysteries of Advent.

This will be at St. James' in Paso Robles from 10am to 3pm. There is a \$10/person donation to cover lunch.

Registration information is here: tinyurl.com/AdventRetreat23



## Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Services

December 24 @ 8am – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Sunday Morning Service December 24 @ 10am – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Sunday Morning Service December 24 @ 4pm – Christmas Eve Service December 24 @ 11pm – Midnight Mass (with a Carol Sing-a-Long at 10.30pm) December 25 @ 9:30am – Christmas Morning

In the "liturgical churches", living the pattern of the church year is an important way to engage with the life and ministry of Jesus. Every 5 or 6 years, when Christmas is on a Monday, it means that we have a lot of services in a 27hr period. Where we are in the worshiping life of St. Stephen's, there is no "fair" way to change the schedule. There is, however, a prayerful way to see each service as an unique opportunity to engage with the Jesus story and with Jesus in the Sacrament with a distinct gathering of people. Whatever fits into your day on December 24 is between you, your household and God, and that will be different for each person. The sanctuary will be open at the times above to help each person foster their relationship with Jesus and His story! How ever few or many are at each service is fine, because our gathering is to worship God together, and where 2 or 3 are gathered, there Jesus is among them. (*And I'd* 



be willing put to up a small wager that a visitor will come to the 10am Service thinking it will be a Christmas Service!) Thanks in advance to the Altar Guild and the Music Team for the extra time they will be contributing over that 27hr period.

## Parish Annual Meeting January 28, 2024 after the 10am Service

Mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting. This is when we do the official business of the parish, required by law. We will elect 3 Vestry members as we give our thanks to Kathryn Bumpass, Kay Lewis and Skip Parks for their 3-year term of service. And we will elect Delegates to Diocesan Convention. If you would like to enquire about nominations, please see one of the 3 mentioned above who form the Nominations Committee.

There will be a slight change to the agenda of the Annual Meeting in order to allow more time for dialog about the work and ministries of the parish. The morning will look like this:

- ♦ Opening Prayer
- **Ore Section of Candidates, Distribution and Collection of Ballots**
- ◊ Motion to Accept the Reports as presented
- OPresentation of the Budget and Voting
- ◊ Motion to Adjourn the BUSINESS portion of the Meeting
- Lunch with a Review of 2023 followed by Ministry Highlights and the opportunity to dialog with heads of ministries.

The Annual Report will be available to members of the congregation no later than January 21. To request it in electronic form, please contact Fr Ian the week prior. Voter and candidate eligibility includes having pledged or been a giver of record in 2023 and 2024 and a communicant in good standing. The term for a Vestry member is 3 years; for Delegates is one year with the commitment to attend 4 meetings during the year and Diocesan Convention via Zoom on Saturday, November 9, 2024.





The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness. Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Isaiah 40:3

## Leaving A Lasting Legacy For Our Church Family

Here are some ways that gifting can contribute to the work of St. Stephen's. Including St. Stephen's in your will or living trust will help perpetuate the Love of God that St. Stephen's shares with all of San Luis Obispo. Each of the options below can be designated to St. Stephen's in general, or to a specific fund or ministry of St. Stephen's. For those interested, it would be important to consult a financial advisor.

Naming St. Stephen's in your Will or Estate Plan – The "Simple" Plan: Leaving St. Stephen's in your will or estate plan is the simplest way to leave your legacy. After caring for your family, you can name a percentage of your estate or a set amount of your assets.

**Charitable Gift Annuity – Ensuring your own financial stability for life:** A Charitable Gift Annuity pays you a guaranteed, fixed dollar amount each year for the rest of your life at a rate based on your age. Cash or appreciated securities serve as the capital. Upon your death, the remainder of the gift annuity transfers to the fund(s) at St. Stephen's which you have designated. You will receive an immediate, partial income tax deduction. The minimum of \$10,000 establishes a Charitable Gift Annuity.

**Charitable Remainder Trust – The "Meal" is Yours; The "Leftovers" go to St. Stephen's:** With a Charitable Remainder Trust, you also receive lifetime income from your gift. Upon your death, the remainder goes to St. Stephen's. Though more complex than the CGA, it can help minimize many potential appreciated asset issues. The minimum of \$100,000 establishes a Charitable Remain-der Trust.

**Retained Life Estate – The Big Gift:** One or more of the assets which you own at the time of your death (home, farm or land) can be bequeathed to St. Stephen's, while retaining control of the asset(s) while you are living. Upon your death, the property transfers to St. Stephen's. At the time of the gift, you receive an immediate, partial income tax deduction for this future gift.

**Required Minimum Distribution:** For those seniors age 70½, you can give any amount up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to St. Stephen's. The gift is made directly from an IRA account without counting toward income. You will not pay income taxes on the transfer. Your IRA administrator must remove the funds from your account by December 31 for your donation to qualify for that tax year. Discuss the options further with The Rector.

#### **Appreciated Securities**

By donating appreciated securities that you have owned for longer than one year, you receive the same income tax savings as you would by making a gift of cash. You also eliminate paying any tax on the appreciation.

Rejoice evermore, Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Page 10

## Spirit, Mind & Body

Looking for something new in 2024?

Do you need to quiet your mind?

Are you desirous of growing your spiritual awareness?

Would you benefit from some gentle stretching and light strengthening?

Consider joining us on Zoom for a gentle yoga practice ...

When: The 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of each month from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. (The class is recorded & will be sent to you as well)

This class has been ongoing for nearly 20 years and beginning January 2024, it will be opened up to anyone and everyone at no charge.

To join the class simply send an email to justresolutions@aol.com and express your desire to join. You will then be sent a waiver and once you have signed and returned the waiver, you will be added to the email list of attendees and will receive a Zoom link on the morning of each session.

History: This class was (& is) taught by Cheryl McCollum & was held at the YMCA for many years prior to Covid-19. With Craig's help, Cheryl switched to Zoom teaching in April of 2020. Gradually getting the word out to former students, the class grew to pre-pandemic numbers and beyond. Students have enjoyed being in the comfort of their own home for their Saturday yoga, therefore, the decision was made to stay on Zoom. As of 2024, Cheryl & Craig will be offering the class through their personal email with Craig continuing to run the tech side. This allows the Zoom class to be offered to anyone and everyone.

The class is enjoyed primarily by folks in their 50's to 80's but is appropriate for anyone who wishes to have relaxation, sustainability & a meditative yoga practice. After class we have a "chat" for anyone who wishes to stay on.

So, if you have an interest, just email us and we will get your New Year gentle yoga practice rolling!

Namaste and Amen!

Craig and Cheryl McCollum justresolutions@aol.com (805)441-5177





Welcoming Worshiping Working

1344 Nipomo Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3935

805-543-7212 office@ststephensslo.org www.ststephensslo.org Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 9am-1pm



But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

> Titus 3:4-5 (NIV)



Blue Christmas Service December 20 at 12:15 and 5:30pm

Christmas is sometimes difficult for people, and instead of the "happiness" that is forced upon us by the hyper-commercialization of Christmas, many people are "blue" during December.

This service is an opportunity for those who find Advent and Christmas difficult to acknowledge that and to be held by God through our difficult times. It will be held at our normal Wednesday Service time. It will be a Healing Service with Eucharist.

A second service will be held at 5:30pm, which will be livestreamed.

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 Permit No. 57



Sunday, December 17 at 5-6:30 p.m.

Join this annual stroll past 15 holiday-lit Victorian houses in the SLO Historic District to learn of the Christmas customs, events, and locales of the 1890s. Flashlights recommended.

Meet in front of St. Stephen's Church, corner of Nipomo and Pismo Sts.

Leader: Joe Morris, 805-549-0355.