

*Glory to God in heaven,
and on earth peace
among those whom he favors.*

LUKE 2:14

Christmas Day

December 25, 2025

+ Serving You Today +

Preacher	<i>Rev. Jacob Swenson, Associate Pastor</i>
Liturgist & Celebrant	<i>Rev. Curtis Binz, Senior Pastor</i>
Assisting Elder	<i>Stanley Tom</i>
Organist	<i>Amy Kao</i>
Ushers	<i>Tom Wedergren, Steve Wood, Alex Lew, Robert Bok</i>
Altar Guild	<i>Ernestine Gutter, Darlene Hartman, Rebecca Chan, Rhonda Short</i>

Visitors, welcome! Thank you for being with us this Holy Christmas, the Nativity of our Lord. Please sign our Guest Book in the Narthex entrance and do come and join us again in worship of the Blessed Triune God. Merry Christmas!

The Chancel Flowers (white poinsettias) are given to the glory of God by **Guthrie, Twomey and Crouse Families** in memory of Margaret and Jim Finley, Jr, beloved parents; Frieda and Robert Thomson; James Sr. and Evelyn Finley; Priscilla, Ben and Barry Mathis; and in honor of WPL Church and School staff and families. *"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." Psalm 23:1*

Divine Service, Setting Four
Lutheran Service Book, page 203

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Stand

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379

1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels: ***Refrain***

Refrain

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

2 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! ***Refrain***

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: ***Refrain***

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! ***Refrain***

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CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the \ddagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \ddagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6

P For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

C **and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

C **The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

P He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

C **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

All: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

C **and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

HYMN *All Glory Be to God on High* LSB 947

1 All glory be to God on high
 And thanks for all His favor;
 No harm can touch or terrify
 A child of God forever.
 God shows His good and gracious will
 And grants His peace, the world to fill—
 All strife at last has ended.

2 We praise and laud and worship You;
 We give You thanks forever,
 O Father, for Your rule is true
 And just and changes never.
 With boundless pow'r, Your mighty reign
 Fulfills whatever You ordain.
 Lord, grant us ev'ry blessing!

3 O Jesus Christ, the only Son
 Begotten of the Father,
 Your saving death has made us one
 With God and with each other.
 O Lamb of God, to You on high
 In our distress we sinners cry,
 Have mercy on us, amen!

4 O Holy Spirit, our delight
 And source of consolation,
 Protect us from the devil's might
 Through Jesus, our salvation,
 Who by His death upon a tree
 Has rescued us from misery:
 To this we hold forever.

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SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT**Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38**

In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. . . .

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE**Titus 3:4-7**

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that
Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON HYMN

We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth

LSB 382

- 1 We praise You, Jesus, at Your birth;
Clothed in flesh You came to earth.
The virgin bears a sinless boy
And all the angels sing for joy.
Alleluia!

- 2 Now in the manger we may see
God’s Son from eternity,
The gift from God’s eternal throne
Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone.
Alleluia!

- 3 The virgin Mary’s lullaby
Calms the infant Lord Most High.
Upon her lap content is He
Who keeps the earth and sky and sea.
Alleluia!

- 4 The Light Eternal, breaking through,
Made the world to gleam anew;
His beams have pierced the core of night,
He makes us children of the light.
Alleluia!

5 The very Son of God sublime
 Entered into earthly time
 To lead us from this world of cares
 To heaven's courts as blessed heirs.
 Alleluia!

6 In poverty He came to earth
 Showing mercy by His birth;
 He makes us rich in heav'nly ways
 As we, like angels, sing His praise.
 Alleluia!

7 All this for us our God has done
 Granting love through His own Son.
 Therefore, all Christendom, rejoice
 And sing His praise with endless voice.
 Alleluia!

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SERMON **“The Goodness and Kindness of God”**
Text: Titus 3:4-7

Stand

NICENE CREED

All: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

P Lord, in your mercy,
C Hear our prayer.

Sit

TITHES AND OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

Choir: *I Wish I'd Been in Bethlehem*

Stand

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

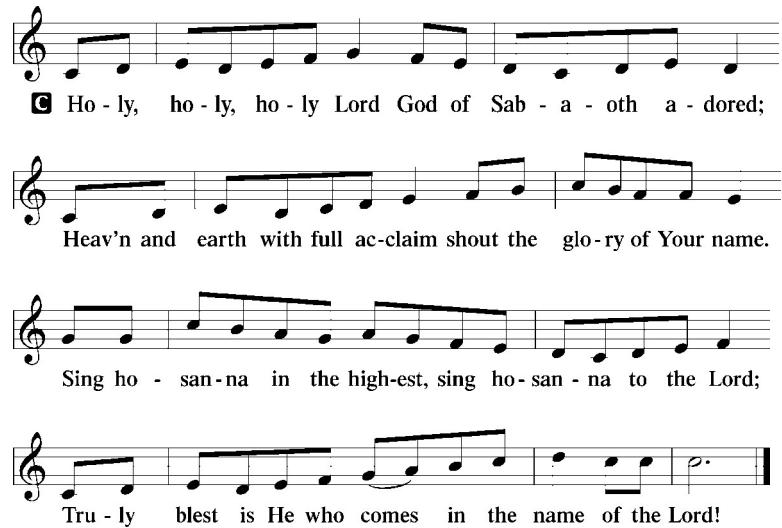
P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
- P** In the beginning You created all things by Your Word; and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.
- P** Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord.
- P** Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

- C** 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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

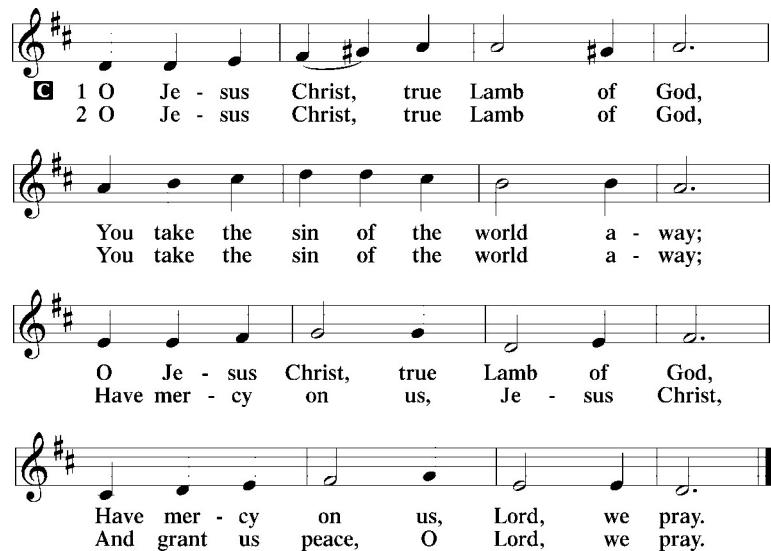
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

AGNUS DEI



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

Regarding our Holy Communion practices this morning:

- We ask that you who are communicant Lutherans prepare to receive the Lord's Supper by reading the Communion Registration side of our Welcome-Worship Registration Card.
- The consecrated wine may be received by common cup (the chalice) or individual chalices. **Non-alcoholic wine is provided in the chalices in the inner circle of the tray for those who are unable to consume alcohol.**
- If you are unable to come to the altar rail for Communion, please let the usher know, and Pastor will bring communion to you in your pew.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

LSB 390

- 1 Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son hath given.
- 2 To this vale of tears He comes,
Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes
We may reign in gladness.
- 3 We are rich, for He was poor;
Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
Here on earth and yonder.
- 4 Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,
Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us.

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Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
 Peace on earth and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” ***Refrain***

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

- 2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
 Late in time behold Him come,
 Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! ***Refrain***
- 3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all He brings,
 Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. ***Refrain***

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Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *Joy to the World*

LSB 387

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book
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Christmas Poinsettias that adorn our Church this Christmas Eve and Day are given to the glory of God for the great gift of His love, Jesus Christ, by the following:

The Ammann & Priest Families

In memory of those family & friends we lost this year, 2025:
Nella Tanzi, Hanny Heim, Gustav Erpen, Alex Steiner, Christoph Buchbender

In memory of those we lost these past 2 decades: Ennio Falcioni, Joseph Priest, Hans Weder

Gerda Beisel & Family

In loving memory of Julius Beisel

Pastor & Stacey Binz

In loving memory of Stacey's sister - Michele Cottle

Antonella Demartini, Israel Frayle, Alessia Frayle

In memory of Joseph Demartini and Gilda Demartini

Rudy & Gail Frey

To the glory of God

Darlene Hartman

In honor of WPL Choir

John Hoch & Elissa Choun

In honor of Margaret Okhi Choun

May Luu

In loving memory of my family & friend I lost this year:

My brother Tung Lau and Rev. David Chan

The Man Family

In honor of Pastor Binz's retirement

John Rixe

In memory of Jan Lundquist

Amy Hartman Roe

In honor of my mother Darlene Hartman for her dedicated years of service at WPL Church

Many thanks to Pastor Binz and His wife, Stacey for 9 years of love and service to WPL Church

Rhonda Short

In memory of Effie Randall

Stanley & Julia Tom

In memory of Margaret Finley

Tom & Georgeanne Wedergren

In honor of our son Ian Wedergren

Justin & Katie Wood

In honor of our grammy, Linda Silveria

Steve & Christy Wood

In memory of our grandparents Phyllis and Bill Silveira, Wintress & Chet Johnson

The Wood Family

In memory of Les Morris, Margaret Finley & Laureen Wudy

Many thanks to our Altar Guild; our Greeters, Ushers, Elders, and Lectors; Church Office Secretaries May Luu and Angie Holt; Office Helpers; Christian Service Committee; Coffee Hour Fellowship Providers; Christmas Church Decorators; those who set up the outdoor nativity; and others for their extra assistance this Advent/Christmas and to anyone else whom we accidentally forgot, **"Many Thanks!"**

- Pastor Binz & Pastor Swenson

A Word From the Church Council
As we celebrate the real miracle of Christmas – God's demonstration of love for us through the Lord Jesus Christ – we also thank Him for the many blessing He has given to this congregation. We are especially grateful for the ministry of Pastor Binz, Pastor Swenson, Principal Sherise Lee, the church office staff, and the faculty and staff of the School, for their commitment to serving the Lord. We appreciate the officers, directors, and volunteers who use the gifts God has given them to serve West Portal Lutheran Church and School. May all of you share the blessings of knowing the Christ Child as you gather with family and friends this Christmas.



The *Church Office* will be closed from Thursday through Saturday, December 25 through 27, and Thursday January 1.



Worship Services

Saturday, 5:00PM
Sunday, 10:00AM

Bible Classes

Wednesday, 11:00AM
Sunday, 9:00AM

CHURCH

200 Sloat Boulevard
San Francisco CA 94132
415-661-0242
www.
westportallutheran.org

SCHOOL

Sloat Campus
200 Sloat Boulevard
San Francisco CA 94132
415-665-6330

Sunset Campus
3101 Moraga Street
San Francisco CA 94122
415-731-3000
www.wplsfc.com

Rev. Curtis Binz,
Senior Pastor

Rev. Jacob Swenson,
Associate Pastor

Ms. Sherise Lee,
Principal

Mrs. Sherilyn Jew,
*Director of
Teaching Learning Curriculum*

Ms. Amy Kao
Church Music Director

Christmas Day
12/25/25
10:00AM