Advent I



St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
November 8, 2026
8:00 a.m.

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed are you, holy and living one.
People ***You come to your people and set them free.***

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Deacon or Presider
God of peace, your reign is revealed in the transforming of swords into ploughshares, the mending of rent garments, the binding up of broken hearts.

As we light this candle, come among us, open our hearts, infuse us with your life, that together we manifest your justice, your compassion, your peace.

The Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Presider Let us pray.

Eternal God, your Word of wisdom goes forth and does not return empty: Grant us such knowledge and love of you that we may perceive your presence in all creation and every creature; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Reading

Lector A reading from Amos (5:18-24).

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord:

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?

It is darkness, not light;
as if someone fled from a lion,
and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,
and was bitten by a snake.

Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.

Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 70

The Deacon or Presider introduces the Psalm and reads the Antiphon. All join in reading the bolded text.

Antiphon Come to us speedily, O God.

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;* O God, make haste to help me.

2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back,
because they are ashamed.

4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is our God!"

5 But as for me, I am poor and needy;* come to me speedily, O God.

6 You are my helper and my deliverer;* O God, do not tarry.

Antiphon Come to us speedily, O God.

The Second Reading

Lector A reading from the letter to the 1 Thessalonians (4:13-18).

We do not want you to be uninformed, kindred, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

The Gospel

Deacon or Presider The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew (25:1-13).
People ***Glory to you, O Christ.***

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Deacon or Presider The Gospel of our Savior.
People ***Praise to you, O Christ***

The Sermon The Rev. Cameron Partridge

Silence *After the sermon, a bell will sound to mark a brief period of silence. The bell will sound a second time to mark the conclusion of this time.*

Nicene Creed

Deacon Together, let us join in saying the Nicene Creed.

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 human.
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.

Prayers of the People

Deacon or Presider
In the wilderness we prepare your way, clearing in the desert a highway for you, O God. On uneven ground, in rough plains, we watch for your coming. On Zion's height we lift up our voice with strength.

Intercessor
God of Faith, we pray for the universal Church, for its work to bring light and love to a struggling world.

Deacon/Officiant/Presider shares the cycles of prayer from the Anglican Communion, the Episcopal Church, the diocese, and our parish, inviting additional prayers.

Intercessor In the house that Love is building
People ***There is plenty room for all.***

Intercessor
God of Justice, we pray for immigrants and refugees throughout the world and in our community. May they be safe. Be with us in our commitment to practice sanctuary and care for our neighbors.

Deacon/Officiant/Presider pauses and invites additional prayers.

Intercessor In the house that Love is building
People ***There is plenty room for all.***

Intercessor
God of Peace, we pray for the many conflicts that burden our world and endanger our siblings near and far. Inspire the world's leaders to seek lasting and peace-filled solutions.

Deacon/Officiant/Presider shares our communal prayers for justice, inviting additional prayers.

Intercessor In the house that Love is building
People ***There is plenty room for all.***

Intercessor
God of Compassion, we pray for all who seek healing, particularly those who have requested our prayers. May they be surrounded by your love and care.

Deacon/Officiant/Presider reads the names of those who have asked for prayers and invites additional prayers.

Intercessor In the house that Love is building
People ***There is plenty room for all.***

Intercessor
God of Hope, we remember those who have died. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Be with us in our sorrow.

Deacon/Officiant/Presider shares the names of those who have recently died and invites additional prayers.

Intercessor In the house that Love is building
People ***There is plenty room for all.***

Intercessor
God of Joy, we pray in gratitude for the blessings of our lives and we reflect in wonder about blessings yet to come from your bounteous grace.

Deacon/Officiant/Presider shares the names of those celebrating birthdays this week and invites additional gratitudes.

Intercessor In the house that Love is building
People ***There is plenty room for all.***

Presider
Christ, Emmanuel, we await your arrival
in a world that hungers for your love.
With fervent hearts we give thanks for that love
and the promise of plenty good room.

Confession and Absolution

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A space of silence is kept.

All

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Presider

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen.***

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.
People ***And also with you***.

You are invited to share a sign of peace.

Announcements

Offertory Sentence

Presider "I pray that God may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which God has called you." Let us bring offerings of our life and labor to God.

The Liturgy of the Table

Presider God be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People ***We lift them to God.***
Presider Let us give thanks to God.
People ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

Presider

Mystery of winter skies, we thank you in the darkening hours for opening our eyes to see your starlit beauty; for parting the wide heavens to send your gentle light; for offering your word to take our mortal flesh.

Christ was promised by those who shared your dream of peace; John the Baptist cleared his way with words of desert fire; Mary and Joseph accepted his coming with tenderness and faith; we know that he draws near again to reveal the in-breaking of your reign.

Now we take up the song of hope that we might awaken to his coming among us and the world be touched by the footfall of his glory:

Holy, Holy, Holy, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Presider continues

We ask that your Holy Spirit fall upon us and upon these gifts, that these fragile, earthly things may be to us the body and blood of our Savior and brother, Jesus Christ; who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom.

Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: 'This is my body which is given for you. Do this to remember me.'

In the same way after supper he took the cup, saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.'

As on that night, so here and now be offers himself in taste and touch beyond what words can hold. Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Presider continues
Therefore, in our eating and drinking we are filled with the life-giving presence of Christ; we proclaim him as creation's host, transforming poverty into plenty in the reckless generosity of love.

Inspire us with the hope that one day death and greed will be no more and people without number will come from east and west, north and south to share the kingdom meal. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Savior, by whom and with whom and in whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory be yours, Mother of blessings, for ever and ever. ***AMEN.***

The Lord's Prayer

Deacon As the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, we pray,
All ***God in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.***

The Fraction

The Presider breaks the bread and says,

Presider God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us..
All ***Happy are all who are called to the Table of God.***

The Invitation

Lifting the bread and cup, the Presider and Deacon invite the people.

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. All are welcome.

This Altar belongs to God and all are welcome to partake, wherever you are on your journey of faith.
If you choose to not receive the bread and/or wine, you are also welcome to receive a blessing;
simply come forward and cross your arms over your chest.

The Bread and Wine are given to the communicants with these words:
The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

Postcommunion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.
All ***God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.***

Healing Prayer

The people are invited to share a request for healing prayer.
You may make a request for yourself or on behalf of another. The Presider then offers a prayer.

Blessing

Presider
The peace of God that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God; and the blessing of God, Source of all being, Incarnate Word and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. ***Amen.***

The Dismissal

Deacon or Presider Let us bless God.
People ***Thanks be to God!***

LITURGY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Please note: We affirm that God embraces all genders, even when the texts of our tradition refer to God with male/masculine language.
- Cover Image: Cameron took this photo at St. Aidan's in Advent of 2020.
- The prayer for the Lighting of the Advent Wreath was written by Cameron for 2025, drawing on Isaiah 2:4 and 61:1.
- The Liturgy of the Word is from *Enriching Our Worship I* (New York: Church Publishing, 1998), 50-54.
- The collect is from Collects For An Expanded Advent Season © William H. Petersen, 2008. All Rights Reserved.
- Psalm translation is from the *CSF Office Book* (Community of St. Francis, 1995).
- The Prayers of the People were written in 2025 by Margaret Dyer-Chamberlain, edited by Cameron for 2026 with additions from the hymn "The House That Love Is Building" by Sara Hart and the spiritual "Plenty Good Room," inspired by our TENS-inspired Stewardship theme.
- The Offertory Sentence draws from Ephesians 1:17-18.
- The Preface and Eucharistic Prayer are adapted from *Prayers for An Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare (New York: Church Publishing, 2009), 144; 133-134.
- The Post Communion Prayer is from *Enriching Our Worship I* (New York: Church Publishing, 1998, p. 69.)

Serving St. Aidan's

The Rev. Cameron Partridge, *Presider & Preacher*
Mike Stafford, *Seminarian*
Kate Fritz, *Altar Guild*
Elena Wong, *Bread Baker*

Announcements

Extended Advent
Today, Sunday, November 8, we begin our observance of an extended seven-week Advent. This expanded Advent is part of a movement to observe Advent with greater intentionality, even as we continue to use the same readings assigned by the lectionary to the wider church. You can read the rationale for this movement on the website of the Advent Project or in *What Are We Waiting For: Reimagining Advent for Time to Come* by William Peterson. In a context where (a secularized) Christmas culture lurks everywhere – even before Halloween now! – an extended Advent *resists this spread, and its mischaracterization of the season*. Advent is not simply a countdown to Christmas. It is an embrace of the in-breaking reign of God. We share a longer Advent observance with our Greek Orthodox neighbors, even as other Christian denominations take on this spirit of intentionality with slightly different framings: this part of the church year has been called Kingdomtide in some Protestant traditions and the liturgical calendar of the Church of England is now in countdown to Advent, calling this Sunday the "Fourth Sunday Before Advent " (you can look at their church calendar online here). *Welcome to Advent.*

Poetry for Advent: A Formation Series

"The Holy Ghost over the bent world broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings." So concludes "God's Grandeur" by the English Jesuit poet Gerard Manely Hopkins. Whether you read poetry frequently, or barely at all, come join us this Advent for a five-week series in which we'll read poetry together. We'll read poets such as John Donne, T.S. Elliot, Mary Oliver, Janet Morely, Jay Hulme, Rachel Mann, Padraig O'Tuama, Malcolm Guite, and W. H. Auden. In one of our sessions, we'll even be joined by a guest poet, the Rev. Dr. Regina Walton, the poetry editor for the Anglican Theological Review!

We'll meet five Wednesday on Zoom from 7-8 PM, just after Evening Prayer:

November 11 & 18, [skipping November 25], and December 2, 9, & 16.

If you need the Evening Prayer Zoom link, please reach out to Cary at office@staidansf.org.

Good News Gardening – Coming up Saturday, November 14th!
We'll continue with the second Saturday of the month at our usual 12:30-2 pm time and our next dates will be Nov 14, Dec. 12, etc. Please reach out to Margaret at mdyerc@stanford.edu with any questions.

AAPI Commission Eucharist - Saturday November 14th, 3:00-5:00 PM, Holy Child and St. Martin, 777 Southgate Avenue in Daly City.
Join our kickoff gathering where we'll come together for Eucharist, food, and fellowship!

Whether you worship in a historic AAHPI+ congregation or are discovering the intersection of faith and identity, this community is for you.

Friends, family, and allies are welcome.

Contact info and RSVP here!



San Francisco Deanery Pilgrimage - Join a walk in our San Francisco Deanery!
Solvitur ambulando – It is solved by walking. Saint Augustine of Hippo's words attest to the revelatory experience of being in motion. SF Deanery Pilgrimages offer opportunities to reengage this ancient wisdom in community. Join walkers beginning this fall on a faithful pathway through San Francisco's Episcopal churches and live into Saint Augustine's maxim.

At a time of social instability and separation, the ancient practice of pilgrimage can bring us together with opportunities for personal reflection and group discernment toward the healing we seek and the thriving God desires for us.

Four quarterly walks over the year are planned. Join one, part, or all of them. On each pilgrimage, a morning's walk brings walkers to one of four parish regions around the city. By the fourth walk, pilgrims will have had the opportunity to visit all the Episcopal congregations of San Francisco and will be welcomed and blessed at our diocesan cathedral.

The four Saturday walks (9 am to approximately 1 pm) are:

- ~~**October 10, 2026: Central Parishes [Episcopal Friary of St. Francis, St. John's in the Mission, St. Gregory of Nyssa, Church of the Advent of Christ the King, and All Saints]**~~
- **December 12, 2026: Northwestern Parishes**
- February 13, 2027: Southwestern Parishes
- April 17, 2027: Northeastern Parishes

Sign up and explore maps of the routes here: https://gracecathedral.org/sf-deanery-pilgrimages/

More Opportunities for Solidarity with Immigrants
Several local organizations offer opportunities to stand with immigrants facing Trump administration attacks.

Faith in Action(www.faithinactionba.org**):** Local branch of a national community-organizing group anchored in faith communities around the country. In the Bay Area they focus on housing and immigration. Opportunities include:

- **Immigration Court.** Accompany immigrants to their court hearings. You'll need at least conversational Spanish, and you'll be trained before you get started. For more information and the sign-up link: www.faithinactionba.org/accompaniment.
- **Rapid Response Network (203) 666-4472:** Faith in Action operates the San Mateo County Rapid Response phone network, providing information for immigrants and their supporters in the whole Bay Area, not just San Mateo. Call the number:
    - If you or a loved one has been detained by ICE
    - If you learn that someone has been detained by immigration enforcement
    - If you see ICE activity in the community
    - If you need accompaniment at an ICE Check-In or court appearance
    - If you need support filling out your asylum paperwork within the first year of entering the country

- If you think immigration enforcement is contacting you by phone call or text message

Immigration court demonstrations and vigils: Several groups maintain a presence outside the immigration court at 100 Montgomery in downtown SF. Here are a couple:

- **Interfaith Court Vigil (**www.im4humanintegrity.org/category/events**/):** Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday every week. Sponsored by the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity. Click here to sign up: bit.ly/CourtVigilVolunteer**.**
- **Tuesday and Friday demonstrations:** Loosely organized, pretty confrontative demonstrations, called by Democratic Socialists of America and others.

Immigration Court Observers: The National Lawyers Guild trains non-lawyers to participate in observing and documenting what happens in immigration courts in S.F. Click here for more information: nlgsf.org/programs-committees/nlg-sfba-programs/immigration-justice-program/

Comprehensive action calendar: (www.actiontogetherwest.org/bayarea**)** A project that grew out of the 2016 Pantsuits Nation group, this is a very well-maintained and up-to-date calendar of resistance activities in the Bay Area.

St. Aidan's Gourmet Book Club
We resume meeting via zoom with LeeAnn DeSalles serving as our zoom master. She has set up a zoom link that will serve for all our meetings. If you would like help with zoom, please contact LeeAnn at leeanndesalles@comcast.net. If you would like to be on the Book Group's mailing list, please contact elaine@mannon.com

- **Monday, November 30, 2026 7:00 p.m.**
  - ***Theo of Golden*** - by Allen Levi
    A story of the power of generosity, the importance of connection, and the quiet miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder. (399 pages)
- NO MEETING IN DECEMBER – HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
- **Monday, January 25, 2027 7:00 p.m.**
  - ***The Yahoo Boys: Love, Deception, and the Real Lives of Nigeria's Romance Scammers* –** by Carlos Barragan
    An astonishing work of immersion journalism about four young romance scammers in Lagos, Nigeria, exploring how and why they scam, and the moral dilemmas they face.

Contemplative Prayer: Tuesday & Thursday from 8-9 AM via Zoom
We offer Contemplative prayer via Zoom. Contemplative Prayer is silent with the beginning and ending marked by a bell. You can practice meditation, silent prayer, journal, or otherwise enjoy the collective quiet. Thank you to Susan Spencer for anchoring this practice. Please feel free to reach out to the office for the Zoom access information: office@staidansf.org.

Morning Prayer: Mon, Wed, Fri at 7:30 AM
We offer Morning Prayer in hybrid mode (at church and via Zoom) on Mondays and Wednesday, and on Fridays via Zoom only. Please feel free to reach out to the office for the Zoom access information: office@staidansf.org.

Evening Prayer: Wednesdays at 6:30 PM via Zoom
We offer Evening Prayer via Zoom. Readings for the day are from the Episcopal Church's daily lectionary or calendar of saints, and the service includes a brief reflection time on the readings. Please feel free to reach out to the office for the Zoom access information: office@staidansf.org

Mask Policy: We respect the preference of anyone who feels safer by masking. We continue to monitor public health advisories and may modify our mask policy, as appropriate. Please pray for the health and safety of all our members and friends as we continue to navigate this challenging time.

To add an announcement to the weekly bulletin of the Flame, please send your edited text no later than 11:00 am Wednesday to office@staidansf.org

St. Aidan's Vestry

Susan Spencer, *Senior Warden*;
Roya Rettberg, *Junior Warden*
Dave Frangquist, *Treasurer*;
Margaret Tait, *Clerk*
Jan Adams, Gilbert Chavez, Janet Lohr,
Mary Pruyn, Margie Wolcott, Ray Wong

Staff e-mail addresses

Cameron: rector@staidansf.org
Cary: office@staidansf.org

Calendar for the Week of November 8, 2026

Sunday, November 8	Holy Eucharist, 8 AM (In-Person) & 10 AM (Hybrid)
Monday, November 9	Morning Prayer (Hybrid), 7:30 AM
Tuesday, November 10	Contemplative Prayer (via Zoom), 8 AM
Wednesday, November 11	Morning Prayer (Hybrid), 7:30 AM Evening Prayer (via Zoom), 7 PM
Thursday, November 12	Contemplative Prayer (via Zoom), 8 AM Kaffeeklatsch (via Zoom), 3 PM
Friday, November 13	Morning Prayer (via Zoom), 7:30 AM Food Pantry, 1 PM
Saturday, November 14	Good News Gardens, 12:30 PM

St. Aidan's Prayers

In Your Prayers, Please Remember:

In acknowledgment that St. Aidan's is located within the unceded ancestral land of the Yelamu tribe of the Ramaytush Ohlone people, with gratitude for their ongoing relationship with this holy place.

In the Episcopal Church: For Sean our Presiding Bishop; for Julia, President of the House of Deputies, and for the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: For Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: For Austin, our bishop; for Holy Child and St. Martin's, Daly City.

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer: For the Christian Formation Ministries.

For those with birthdays this week: Janet, Joel, Parker, Olivia.

For all striving for mental and emotional balance and wholeness, and for their families and friends.

For those who have asked for our prayers: André E., Ann C., ;Bill W., Carol-Ann, Charles, Chuck L., Cindi G., Dave P., Debbie C., Denise, Emily, Felicia F., Garry M., George C., Harry P., Jaime, Janice T., Jean W., Jelly J., Jenny M., Jill, Jim F., Jim O., Jodi F., Joe, Joelle, John, Judy B., Julie A., Ken E., Lucinda G., Lyle B., Lynne and Meg S., Margarita, Marc L., Marilyn, Mark, Matthew G., Mercedes, Michaela, Milo R., Mina Marie, Patricia, Patty, Peter G., Ping, Rocky V. and Ruth S., Ron B., Stephanie M., Steve E., Tawanda, Tony F., Tony L., Vicky, Zakaria E.

For our ongoing work against intersecting forms of oppression, particularly racism and transphobia, and in affirmation of human dignity.

For our work in the world in our daily lives and for the ministries of the Friday Food Pantry and Diamond Diners.

For our congregation as we embrace our call to practice sanctuary: may we commit ourselves to prayer, education, and support for immigrants to this country and for all who are estranged, excluded, or threatened in 21st century America. We pray in thanksgiving for the numerous gifts our refugee and immigrant siblings have brought, and continue to bring, to this country.

For all who are struggling in this time of intensified injustice and polarization in our country and around the world: for strengthened relationships and deepened commitment to our common life and the well-being of our planet.

For those who have recently died: Sharon Martinas, Pat Kleinberg, Chandru Murthi, Jessica Stevenson, Carol Bertaut.

To place a name on our prayer list, please contact the church office at 415-285-9540, ext. 3 or office@staidansf.org. Names of the living are printed by first name and will be kept on the prayer list for four weeks. To keep someone on the list for longer, please notify the office.



St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

101 Gold Mine Drive, San Francisco, CA 94131
www.staidansf.org (415) 285-9540

Plenty Good Room

Questions for Reflection:

Take a moment to thank God for all those who made plenty good room for you in the Church. How has that shaped who you are today?



The Rev. Ramiro (Ram) Lopez serves as rector of St. George's Church in San Antonio and serves on the board of TENS.

Growing up in Corpus Christi, Texas I spent more time fishing in the surf of Padre Island than in going to church. Our Latino family roots were in Roman Catholicism but our church was the Gulf of Mexico shoreline. How, then, did I grow up to become an Episcopal priest? Thinking back I will say that my life today is the result of someone taking the time to invite me to Christ's table. First invitation was to the local Canterbury group (college ministry). Next came an invitation to attend worship at Church of the Good Shepherd followed by an invitation to serve at the Diocesan camp, Camp Capers.

One after another, the invitations kept coming. Each one led me to a community which always made room for me. I found belonging in a spiritual family. They made plenty good room for me and for my family and friends. Over and over again, the graciousness of Christ was extended to me. I found fellow travelers on the spiritual journey. More importantly, I found the gifts of God within me.

I suppose that I am an Episcopal priest because of all the people along the spiritual way who invited me into communities in which there was plenty good room. Plenty good room to discover myself. Plenty good room to discover God. Plenty good room to discover and discern how God was calling me to serve and lead.

I cannot imagine any other life than the one I have now - serving as an Episcopal parish priest! I am ever grateful for all the wonderful, lifelong friendships I have made. I cannot imagine any other job that would be so wonderful, so exciting and energizing as the ministry I have today.

I am so grateful for all the invitations and all those who made plenty good room for me! TENS.org

TENS THE EPISCOPAL NETWORK FOR STEWARDSHIP