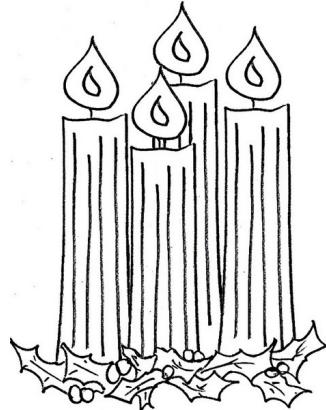


The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Service of Lessons and Carols

December 23, 2018 • 8:00 AM Service

Holy Communion: Rite One



639 Edgewater Drive • Dunedin, FL 34698
(727) 733-4125 • Pastor Becky's cell: (727) 458-2625
www.COGSdunedin.com
E-Mail the church office: info@cogsdunedin.com
Sunday Services at 8 and 10 AM • Wed. Service at 10 AM • Sat. Service at 5 PM

WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD

If you are new to our congregation, please let us know by getting a name tag at the Welcome Center outside and completing a newcomer card, found either at the Welcome Center or in the pew rack in front of you.

We have **gluten-free wafers** available: Please make your request known at the altar rail.

Symbols in the Bulletin: **P** Priest, **C** congregation, **L** Leader, **All** Everyone, **D** Deacon.

Hymn numbers listed in the bulletin are referencing *The Hymnal 1982*, found in the pew rack.

Following the service we welcome everyone for coffee and refreshments in Kirk Hall, located on the first floor. Turn right after passing through the arch off the passageway between the buildings. The **restrooms** are also there.

A gentle reminder: As a courtesy during the church service, please be sure to turn your **cell phone off** or put it on the vibrate setting.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Quietly prepare for worship.

PRELUDE

People, Look East

Wayne Wold

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

ACCLAMATION

[Please stand.]

- P** Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
C And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

All 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.

- P** Lord, have mercy upon us.
C Christ, have mercy upon us.
P Lord, have mercy upon us.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

PRAYER FOR THE FOURTH CANDLE OF ADVENT: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

- P** We light the first candle as a symbol of Christ who brings Hope.
[One blue candle is lit.]
We light the second candle as a symbol of Christ who brings Peace.
[A second blue candle is lit.]
We light the third candle as a symbol of Christ who brings Joy.
[The pink candle is lit.]
We light the fourth candle as a symbol of Christ who brings Love.
L For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. [The fourth candle is lit.]
C Our God, we come to you today filled with love. Help us live together in a loving way today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And with thy Spirit.
P Let us pray... Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

[Please be seated.]

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

LESSON ONE: Proverbs 8:22–31

¶ "The Lord brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning, when the world came to be. When there were no watery depths, I was given birth, when there were no springs overflowing with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, before he made the world or its fields or any of the dust of the earth. I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. Then I was constantly at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.

REFLECTION

CAROL

Praise the Spirit In Creation

**AII Praise the Spirit in creation, breath of God, life's origin:
Spirit, moving on the waters quickening worlds to life within,
source of breath to all things breathing, life in whom all lives begin.**

**Pray we then, O Lord the Spirit, on our lives descend in might;
let your flame break out within us, fire our hearts and clear our sight,
till, white-hot in your possession, we, too, set the world alight.**

LESSON TWO: Isaiah 7:10–15, 9:6–7

¶ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, "Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."

But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test."

Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right."

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

REFLECTION

- AII** *The prophet gave the sign for faithful folk to read:
a virgin born of David's line shall bear the promised seed.*

*Praise we the Lord this day, this day so long foretold,
whose promise shone with cheering ray on waiting saints of old.*

LESSON THREE: Micah 5:2–5a

- L** “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth; and he will be our peace.

REFLECTION

- AII** *O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

LESSON FOUR: Luke 1:5–20, 23–24a

- L** In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.

REFLECTION

CAROL

Blessed Be the God of Israel

**AII *Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.***

***With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.***

LESSON FIVE: Matthew 1:18–24

I This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

REFLECTION

CAROL

Come Now and Praise the Humble Saint

All

1. Come now and praise the humble saint of David's calls you crown or
 2. The an - gel spoke as Jo - seph slept: "God here, no
 3. For him there was no glo - ry whose the the

house and line, the car - pen - ter whose
 to be - come the Vir gin's spouse, the
 mar - tyr's fame; for him there was the the

life ful - filled our gra - cious God's de - sign.
 guar - dian of great Da - vid's grea - ter Son.
 pa - tient life of faith and hum - ble name.

LESSON SIX: Luke 1:39–45

- L** At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

REFLECTION

**AII My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?**

Refrain **My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.**

**Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.**

Refrain

**Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.**

Refrain

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

[Please sit, stand, or kneel, as you prefer.]

- D Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.**
- L Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all humanity: 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. We pray in hope,**
- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- L Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops, especially to Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Dabney, our Bishop; Barry and Michael, our Assisting Bishops; Becky, our Rector; Cindy, our Deacon; Ann, our Priest Associate; to our companion diocese of the Dominican Republic; to the following churches in the Diocese of Southwest Florida: Iona-Hope, Fort Myers; Church of the Good Shepherd, LaBelle; and Trinity-By-The-Cove, Naples; to the Clearwater Deanery Collaboration Partners; and to all priests, deacons, and the laity in their ministry; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. We pray in hope,**
- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

L 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 pray in hope,

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

L We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially President Trump, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. We pray that all God's children, especially those in the Middle East, might live in the hope of the world peace for which we are created. We pray in hope,

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

L And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor [Add handwritten names from notebook] and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially those listed in the weekly news who have asked for our prayers. I now invite you to pray for others by name, aloud or in your hearts. [Time is left for people to speak.] We pray in hope,

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

L 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. We give thanks for the flowers given to the glory of God. We give thanks for all the blessings of this life, [especially... read from notebook]. We pray in hope,

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

L And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, [especially... add names from notebook]. Please add names of those on your heart, silently or aloud. [Time is left for people to speak.] We beseech 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. We pray in hope,

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SIN

[Please stand or kneel, as you choose.]

D Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God. [Silence is kept.]
Most merciful God,....

C **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.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to 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.

C Amen.

PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS

THE PEACE

[Please stand.]

P The peace of the Lord be always with you.

C And with thy spirit.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

[Please be seated.]

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERINGS

[Please stand when the deacon receives the offering.]

D As we receive these gifts, we acknowledge:

C All things come from thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer I

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P 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. Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

C 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.

[Please kneel or stand, as you choose.]

- P** 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.

- C** **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;

- P** 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.
- C** **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,
- 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

- P** The bread we break makes us one in Christ.
- C** **Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**
- P** 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.

[You may be seated. All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please follow the directions of the usher, who will let you know when it's your turn to go to the altar rail. You may stand or kneel. To receive, hold your hands in front of you, one palm over the other. The priest will place a wafer there. You may either consume it immediately, and then sip from the cup of wine when it comes to you, or, you may wait and dip the wafer into the wine. When you are finished, please return to your seat by the side aisle.]

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

[Please kneel or stand, as you choose.]

- P** Let us pray.
- C** **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.**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

- P** God bless you with the promises of hope, the strengths of peace, the depths of joy, and the labors of love, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**
- D** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God!**

SERVING US TODAY

Celebrant	Pastor Becky Robbins-Penniman
Deacon	Cindy Roehl
Priest Associate	Ann Chaplin
Organist	Robert Moncrief
Chalicist	Ron Ellis
Lectors	Laurel Banta Wendy Anderson Lou Collard Heather Elder Wendy Anderson Lou Collard
Prayers	Ron Ellis
Greeter	Jay Harvey
Usher	John Schmidt
Coffee Host	Ann Kuratnick

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at all the services listed below.

Christmas Eve 5:00 PM Family service with a Plug-In Pageant. We'll also have candlelight, carols, and Holy Communion.

Christmas Eve 10:00 PM Candlelight service. This is a festival of traditional carols, words of comfort and hope, and Holy Communion. **Special music begins at 9:30 PM**

Christmas Day 10:00 AM Join us for a jubilant morning of worship, including sharing in Holy Communion.