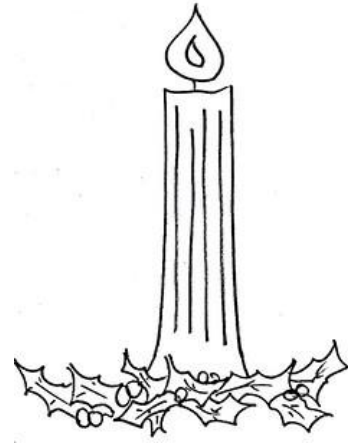


# First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

8:00 AM Service

Holy Communion: Rite I



639 Edgewater Drive • Dunedin, FL 34698

(727) 733-4125 • Pastoral Care Number: (727) 275-0257

[www.COGSDunedin.com](http://www.COGSDunedin.com)

E-Mail the church office: [info@cogsdunedin.com](mailto:info@cogsdunedin.com)

Services: Sunday at 8 and 10 AM • Wednesday at 6 PM

**Our Sunday 10:00 AM service is livestreamed**

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## WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD

**Restrooms:** Handicap-accessible restrooms are located to the right as you go up the ramp through the archway across from the doors of the sanctuary.

**We have gluten-free wafers available:** Please tell us when you come to the altar rail.

**Standing, sitting, and kneeling:** Throughout the bulletin, there are invitations to stand, sit or kneel, as you choose. You are free to be seated at any time when that is best for you.

**A gentle Reminder:** Please enter the Nave quietly and reverently and silence your phones.

Most of the sung music is found in the blue hymnal, *The Hymnal, 1982*. In the bulletin, an "H" indicates the hymn section of the book; an "S" indicates it's from the service music section in the front of the book.



# GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please remain seated.*

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

*(Please stand when the bells sound and face the Baptistry in the rear of the sanctuary.)*

## ACCLAMATION

*Please stand.*

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **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.**

*Celebrant* Lord, have mercy upon us.

*All* **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

*Celebrant* Lord, have mercy upon us.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy Spirit.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray... Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever..

*All* **Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

*Please be seated.*

### THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

*Lector*        *The First Reading is taken from Isaiah chapter 64...*

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence-- as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 80:1-7,16-18

*Lector*        *We will read responsively from Psalm 80...*

*Lector*        Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

*People*        **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

*Lector*        Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

*People*        **O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

*Lector*        You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

*People*        **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

*Lector*        Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

*People*        **Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

*Lector*        And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

*People*        Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

## **THE SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

*Lector*        *The Second Reading is taken from First Corinthians chapter 1...*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

## **THE GOSPEL**

Mark 13:24-37

*Please stand.*

*Deacon*        The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*People*        **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

*Deacon*        Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at

dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

The Rev. Kathleen Walter

**NICENE CREED** *Please stand.*

*People* **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 man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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**

*Please sit, stand, or kneel, as you prefer.*

*Deacon* Let us pray for the whole state of Christ’s Church and the world.

*Lector* 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. God of Light and Life,

People  
Lector

**We pray to you.**

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops, especially to Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Douglas, our Bishop; Whitney, our Rector; Cindy, our Deacon; to our companion diocese of the Dominican Republic; to these Episcopal Churches in our Diocese; Church of the Epiphany, Cape Coral; Iona-Hope, Fort Myers; Lamb of God, Fort Myers; St. Hilary's, Fort Myers; St. Luke's, Fort Myers; St. Raphael's, Fort Myers Beach; Good Shepherd, LaBelle; St. Anselm's, Lehigh Acres; All Souls', North Fort Myers; St. Michael and All Angels, Sanibel, and St. John's, Pine Island; 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. God of Light and Life,

People  
Lector

**We pray to you.**

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. God of Light and Life,

People  
Lector

**We pray to you.**

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially our elected leaders, 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. God of Light and Life,

People  
Lector

**We pray to you.**

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. [*Leave time...*] God of Light and Life,

People  
Lector

**We pray to you.**

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, and for all the blessings of this life, especially the birthdays this coming week of Lynne Lloveras, Betty Lombardo, Marianne de la Vega, Dick Smedley, and Andrea Zahn. God of Light and Life,

People  
Lector

**We pray to you.**

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. [*Leave time...*] 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. God of Light and Life,

People

**We pray to you.**

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

*The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.*

*People* **AMEN.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*Please kneel or stand.*

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

*People* **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.**

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

*People* **Amen.**

## **THE GREETING OF PEACE** *Please stand.*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

*Please be seated.*

### **PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING**

*Deacon* As we receive these gifts, we acknowledge

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

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer II**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People* **It is meet and right so to do.**



*Celebrant* 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,

*People* **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.*

*Celebrant* All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for 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 to thee, he broke 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 this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, 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, we thy people do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

*Celebrant and People* **And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;**

*Celebrant* By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

*People* **AMEN.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,  
*People* **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

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All are invited to receive the Sacrament. If you would like to receive wine you may do so by sipping from the chalice or allowing the Eucharistic Minister to intinct (dip) the wafer for you.*

*If you desire a blessing instead of Communion, cross your arms over your chest.*

## COMMUNION

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **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

*Please stand.*

*Celebrant announces the blessing.*

*People* **Amen.**

*Deacon* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People* **Thanks be to God!**

### SERVING US TODAY

Celebrant	The Rev. Kathleen Walter
Deacon	The Rev. Cindy Roehl
Organist	Tom Huffman
Crucifer/Chalicer	Michelle Schombs
Lector	Diane Niford
Prayers of the People	Butch Niford
Ushers	Butch & Diane Niford

#### **Prayers are requested for:**

**The Week of Nov 26** – Jerry, Linda, Leslie P, LeeAnn J, Bill E, Bob D, Traci & Joe, Lou F, Heather S, Stacey E, Colette S, Bonnie L, Bob S, Olena & family, Milly L, John H, Suzy, Jeanne, Cheryl S, Carmella A, Priscilla B, Tony B, Bob H, Mike N, Mark D & family, Carol C, Anita M, Jeff M, Hans, Trina, Heather C, Maggie, John A, Hilda, Ken, Rob M, Jay O, Arriana P, Steve E, Jim W, Christopher J.

**Celebrations this week: Birthdays** – Lynne Lloveras, Betty Lombardo, Marianne de la Vega, Dick Smedley, and Andrea Zahn.

## Announcements

**Rector's Discretionary Fund:** All loose offerings given the first week each month are earmarked to assist individuals and families in the Dunedin and Clearwater area in affording utility costs. Please contact the office or visit [cogsdunedin.com/rectors-discretionary-fund](http://cogsdunedin.com/rectors-discretionary-fund) for more information.

**Quilt Raffle:** Purchase your tickets to benefit the Pack-A-Sack Ministry – 1 ticket for \$5.00 or 5 tickets for \$20.00. Tickets will be sold between services. Drawing is TODAY.

**Proposed 2024 Budget:** Our Treasurer, Robin Megel, will be available after both services today in Kirk Hall to answer any questions regarding the budget for next year. A copy of the budget summary will be available at the back of the church.

**Farm Worker Christmas Gifts:** Every year Farmworker Self Help/Resurrection Hour Mission in Dade City gives Christmas gifts to over 200 families. You may purchase gifts and leave them in the bins at church and in Kirk Hall. Or if you prefer, send a check made out to COGS noted "Farm Worker Fund" and we will shop for you. See website for full list of gift suggestions. Last date for collection is Sunday, Dec. 17.

**Angel Tree:** For those that took a name from the tree, please return gifts once purchased (wrapped, with the tag placed on the gift) to the church no later than Dec. 10.

**Christmas Flower & Music Donations:** Donations are now being accepted toward music and flowers for our Christmas Services. To donate, please either fill out an envelope located in the pews or rear of the church on Sundays, or see the link on the COGS website. Donation deadline is Thursday, Dec 14. Minimum donation is \$25.00.

**Carol Sing:** Please join Bells of Hope on Sunday, Dec. 17 @ 4:00 PM to enjoy the music of the season.

### **COGS Christmas Services:**

Wednesday, Dec 13 @ 6 PM – Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, Dec 24 @ 9 AM – Advent 4 Service (Not a Christmas Service)

Sunday, Dec 24 @ 5 PM – Family Christmas Eve Service and Plug-In Pageant – Live Streamed

Sunday, Dec 24 @ 9 PM – Candlelight Christmas Service – Live Streamed (Music begins at 8:30 PM)

Monday, Dec 25 @ 10 AM – Christmas Day Service (Note: incense will be used for this service.)



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