

## The Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019 • 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](mailto:info@cogsdunedin.com)



Sunday Services at 8 and 10 AM • Wed. Service at 10 AM • Sat. Service at 5 PM

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### GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

#### PRELUDE

*People, Look East*

W. Wold

*[During the Prelude, please prepare for worship by observing attentive silence.]*

#### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

*[Please stand when the chimes sound and face the Baptistry in the rear of the sanctuary.]*

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

#### PRAYER FOR THE THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT: JOY

- 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 Love. *[A second blue candle is lit.]*  
We light the third candle as a symbol of Christ who brings Joy. *[A pink candle is lit.]*
- L** Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- C** **O God, we come to you today filled with joy. We ask your blessing upon us and our mission. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

#### WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MISSION MOMENT

*[Please be seated.]*

#### 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.**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

☞ The Lord be with you.

☞ **And with thy Spirit.**

☞ Let us pray... Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

**THE READINGS:** Isaiah 35:1–10 • Canticle 15 • James 5:7–10 • Matthew 11:2–11

*[Please be seated.]*

### THE FIRST READING

☞ *The First Reading is taken from Isaiah, chapter 35...*

The desert and the dry land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom like the crocus. They will burst into bloom, and rejoice with joy and singing. They will receive the glory of Lebanon, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the Lord's glory, the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and support the unsteady knees. Say to those who are panicking: "Be strong! Don't fear! Here's your God, coming with vengeance; with divine retribution God will come to save you."

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be cleared. Then the lame will leap like the deer, and the tongue of the speechless will sing. Waters will spring up in the desert, and streams in the wilderness. The burning sand will become a pool, and the thirsty ground, fountains of water. The jackals' habitat, a pasture; grass will become reeds and rushes. A highway will be there. It will be called The Holy Way. The unclean won't travel on it, but it will be for those walking on that way. Even fools won't get lost on it; no lion will be there, and no predator will go up on it. None of these will be there; only the redeemed will walk on it. The Lord's ransomed ones will return and enter Zion with singing, with everlasting joy upon their heads. Happiness and joy will overwhelm them; grief and groaning will flee away.

☞ The Word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

### CANTICLE 15

☞ *We will read Canticle 15 responsively ...*

☞ My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

☞ **From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

**the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

☞ He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

☞ **He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

☞ He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

☞ **He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.**

☞ He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

☞ **The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.**

## THE SECOND READING

**L** *The Second Reading is taken from James, chapter 5....*

Therefore, brothers and sisters, you must be patient as you wait for the coming of the Lord. Consider the farmer who waits patiently for the coming of rain in the fall and spring, looking forward to the precious fruit of the earth. You also must wait patiently, strengthening your resolve, because the coming of the Lord is near. Don't complain about each other, brothers and sisters, so that you won't be judged. Look! The judge is standing at the door!

Brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of patient resolve and steadfastness.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL

*[Please stand.]*

**D** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

**D** Now when John heard in prison about the things the Christ was doing, he sent word by his disciples to Jesus, asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Jesus responded, "Go, report to John what you hear and see. Those who were blind are able to see. Those who were crippled are walking. People with skin diseases are cleansed. Those who were deaf now hear. Those who were dead are raised up. The poor have good news proclaimed to them. Happy are those who don't stumble and fall because of me."

When John's disciples had gone, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John: "What did you go out to the wilderness to see? A stalk blowing in the wind? What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in refined clothes? Look, those who wear refined clothes are in royal palaces. What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. He is the one of whom it is written: Look, I'm sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you.

"I assure you that no one who has ever been born is greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

**D** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON

Becky Robbins-Penniman

*[Please be seated.]*

## NICENE CREED

*[Please stand.]*

**AI** 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.]*

**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 joy,

**C** Hear our prayer.

**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 these Episcopal Churches in our Diocese; St. John's, St. Monica's, and St. Paul's all in Naples, and Trinity-By-The-Cove, DaySpring Conference Center in Parrish; 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 joy,

**C** Hear our prayer.

**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 joy,

**C** Hear our prayer.

**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 joy,

**C** Hear our prayer.

**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. [*Leave time...*] We pray in joy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

**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 today to your glory by Gail Griffin in loving memory of Marcia Burdick and for all the blessings of this life. I invite you to name a blessing either silently or aloud. [*Leave time...*] We pray in joy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

**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. [*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. We pray in joy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

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

**C Amen.**

## CONFESSIO 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,...

**All** **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 SENTENCE

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

*[If this is your first time worshiping with us, please let your offering be only the completed blue guest card, and let this service be our gift to you.]*

### OFFERTORY

#### PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERINGS

*[Please stand when the offerings of bread, wine, and money are presented by the Deacon.]*

**D** As we receive these gifts, we acknowledge

**G 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.

**G And with thy spirit.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

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

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

**G 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.

**P** Therefore, with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**All 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.

**P** 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."

**P** 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."

**P** 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.

**A** 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. 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,

**A** 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 living bread is broken for the life of the world.

**C** Lord, unite us in this sign.

**P** The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ die 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.]*

***Our Prayer Team will be in the south narthex (at the back of the church) during Holy Communion to pray with you for healing, guidance, thanksgiving, for a loved one, or anything else on your heart.***

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*[Please kneel or stand, as you choose.]*

**P** Let us pray.

**All** **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.]*

**P** The Lord calls us to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Day of the Lord by filling our lives with the promises of hope, the labors of love, the depths of joy, and the strengths of peace; go from here with the blessing of the Triune God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, this day and forever.

**C Amen.**

**D** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God!**

#### **POSTLUDE**

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

P. Manz

#### **SERVING US TODAY**

Celebrant	Becky Robbins-Penniman
Deacon	Cindy Roehl
Priest Associate	Ann Chaplin
Organist	Robert Moncrief
Chalicer	Wendy Anderson
Lector	Butch Niford
Prayers of the People	Wendy Anderson
Prayer Team	Priscilla & Tony Bowman
Greeter	Diane Niford
Usher	Butch Niford
Building & Grounds	Bob Roehl