

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2023

10:00 AM Service

Holy Communion: Rite II



639 Edgewater Drive • Dunedin, FL 34698  
(727) 733-4125 • Pastoral Care Number: (727) 275-0257  
www.COGSDunedin.com  
E-Mail the church office: info@cogsdunedin.com

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

**Our Sunday 10 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.

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**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

### **VOLUNTARY**

Partita on NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND  
(see the Advent Hymn, #54 in *The Hymnal*, 1982)

Jacob B. Weber

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

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY**

LYONS

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

*(all singing)*

**The candle of joy reminds us to sing,  
for God is at work to do a new thing.  
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.  
God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise.**

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### **ENTRANCE HYMN H-436**

Lift Up Your Heads

TRURO

*(stanzas 1,3,4,5)*

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits!  
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.**

**Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

**Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee: here, Lord, abide!  
Let me thy inner presence feel: thy grace and love in me reveal.**

**So come, my Sovereign; enter in! Let new and nobler life begin;  
thy Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.**

### **THE OPENING ACCLAMATION**

*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, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you  
no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of  
your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your  
holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*(sing responsively)*

*Priest, Deacon or Cantor, then All*

Lord, have mer - cy,

*Priest, Deacon or Cantor, then All*

Christ, have mer - cy,

*Priest, Deacon or Cantor, then All*

Lord, have mer - cy.

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY***Celebrant* The Lord be with you.*People* **And also with you.***Celebrant* Let us pray... Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.*All* **Amen.****THE WORD OF GOD***The people sit.***THE FIRST READING**

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

*Lector* *The First Reading is taken from Isaiah chapter 61...*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has

covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 126

WAYFARING STRANGER

*(all singing)*

**When God first brought us back from exile, we were as dazed as those who dream.  
Then were our mouths brimming with laughter; joy from our lips gushed like a stream.  
The godless cried in envious wonder, "Look what the Lord has done for them!"  
Indeed our God has greatly blessed us; rejoice and sing, Jerusalem!**

**Once more, O Lord, restore your people; come with your saving help again,  
as to the brook-beds in the desert you bring the sweet, reviving rain.**

**Let those who sow with tears and sighing sing as they reap and joy proclaim:  
may those who weep when seed is scattered gather their sheaves and praise your name.**

## THE SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

*Lector* *The Second Reading is taken from First Thessalonians chapter 5....*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand as able.*

## THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Paul Hillebrand

*(all sing the refrain twice, the choir sings the verse)*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

Choir: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because  
he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. **(Refrain)**

## THE GOSPEL

John 1:6-8,19-28

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

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*Deacon*

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**SERMON** *The people sit.*

The Rev. Deacon Cindy Roehl

**NICENE CREED** *All stand as able.*

*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.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form II – BCP 385

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

*In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.*

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION:

*Please kneel or stand as able.*

*Deacon* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (*Silence is kept.*)

*People* **Most merciful God,**  
**we confess that we have sinned against you**  
**in thought, word, and deed,**  
**by what we have done,**  
**and by what we have left undone.**  
**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**  
**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**  
**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**  
**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**  
**have mercy on us and forgive us;**  
**that we may delight in your will,**  
**and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. AMEN.**

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

*All* **Amen.**

## THE GREETING OF PEACE

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

*People* **And also with you.**

*All may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*Please be seated.*

### OFFERTORY

Mary, Did You Know?

arr. Douglas Wagner  
Choir

### THE PRESENTATION

*All stand as able.*

*Deacon* We gladly present the fruits of our lives to the God who creates us, redeems us and sustains us. May we have the grace to use them to heal God's world.

# PRESENTATION HYMN

VENI EMMANUEL

Em G C D<sup>7</sup> G D G C G  
 Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

5 Am Bm<sup>7</sup> Em Am Em B<sup>7</sup> Em A<sup>7</sup> D Em  
 here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

10 D Bm G C Am D<sup>7</sup> G D Em Bm G  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

15 C D<sup>7</sup> Em D G C G Am Em Bm Em  
 man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer A

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your 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 we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord  
 God of hosts. Heav-en and earth are full of your  
 glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.  
 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is My Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity



of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

*People*        **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Celebrant*     And now as our Savior Christ has 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.**

### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.*

### **THE FRACTION ANTHEM S-155**

Gerald R. Near

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
therefore let us keep the feast.  
Alleluia, alleluia, 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**

Canticle of the Turning

Rory Cooney  
Jen Renfroe, Guest Soloist and Choir

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
 Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
 tender to me the promise of his word;  
 in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!  
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
 his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
 his holy Name— the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
 Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
 Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
 the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
 Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
 to children's children and for evermore!

### THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Celebrant*

Let us pray...

*All*

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

### THE BLESSING

THE SENDING HYMN H-490

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

HOUSTON

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
 God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

**Refrain:**

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
 The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.  
(Refrain)

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. (Refrain)

### THE DISMISSAL

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

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**VOLUNTARY** Fantasia on "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" John A. Behnke

### SERVING US TODAY

Celebrant	The Rev. Whitney Burton
Deacon	The Rev. Cindy Roehl
Organist/Choirmaster	Tom Huffman
Crucifer/Server	Carol Beauchamp
Torch/Chalichists	Joe Nixon & Miriam Benitez-Nixon
Lectors	Mary Ratliff & Heather Elder
Prayers of the People	Ryan Stollenmaier
Ushers	Jim & Mary Ratliff
Building & Grounds	Cheryl Sharpe
Welcome Table	Betty & Joe Lombardo, John Drega

### Prayers are requested for:

**The Week of Dec 10** – Kyla, David R, Beth P, Bishop Curry, Maria A, Gene B, Bill GW, Bob H, Suzy, Jeanne, Jason C, Amy Z, Betsie D, Jim, Marilyn, Sue V, Mary Beth, Steve E, Jim W, Donna & Peter B, Ainsley & family, Lou F, Colette S, Bonnie L, Bob S, Milly L, Olena & family, Cindy A, Barbara B, Garry L, Christopher J, Priscilla & Tony B, Diane N, Adrianna P, Jay O, Rob M, Comet S, Kipling.

**Celebrations this week: Birthdays** – Christine McLaughlin, Liz Hopwood, Llorra Wonder, Shirl Ahrens, Michael Tomalesky, Bethany Elder, Aubrey Elder, and Barbara Groff.

## Announcements

**Greening of the Church:** Join us TODAY after the 10 AM service as we prepare our church for Christmas.

**Carol Sing:** Please join Bells of Hope TODAY @ 4 PM to enjoy the music of the season.

**Farm Worker Christmas Gifts:** 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. Last date for collection is TODAY.

**Advent 4 Service:** Sunday, Dec 24 at 9 AM we will celebrate Advent 4.

**Card Ministry:** is looking for donations of religious Christmas Cards for next year.

**Prayer Quilt:** Please tie a knot and say a prayer over the quilt located in the rear of the church.

### **COGS Christmas Services:**

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.)