

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 14, 2025

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 Service at 8 and 10 AM • Wednesday at 6 PM)

Our Sunday service is livestreamed

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.

All music is reprinted and streamed with permission under OneLicense account #A-711594.

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.



Virtual Worship Bulletins

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

arr. Mark Albrecht

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

Choir

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

--Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Daughters of the King

ENTRANCE HYMN H-640

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

ABERYSTWYTH

Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height, see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray aught of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, darkness takes its flight, doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease; hie thee to thy quiet home.
Traveler, lo! the Prince of Peace, lo! the Son of God is come!

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

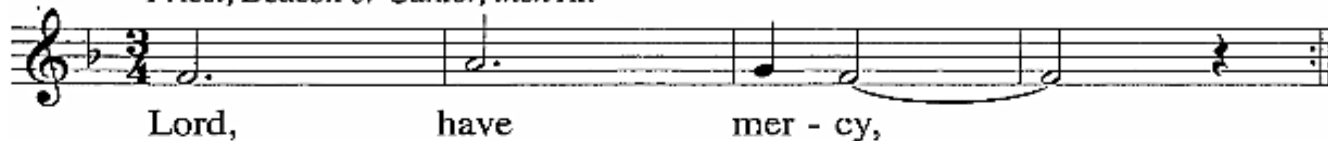
Celebrant Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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.

*All singing; repeat after the solo each time:
Priest, Deacon or Cantor, then All*



Priest, Deacon or Cantor, then All



Priest, Deacon or Cantor, then All



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 FIRST READING

Please be seated.

Isaiah 35:1-10

Lector The First Reading is taken from Isaiah chapter 35...

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

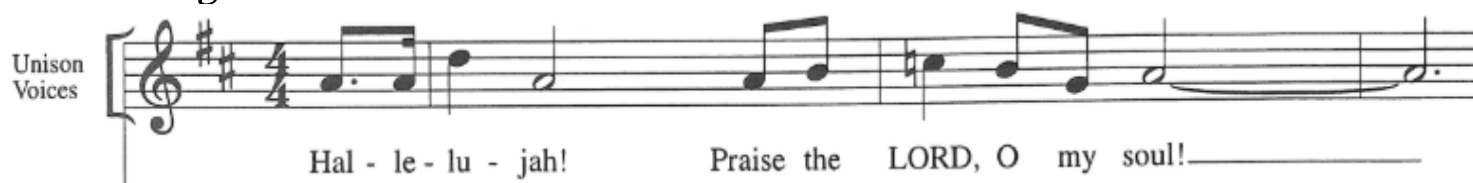
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 146

Hal H. Hopson

We will read the verses as indicated 'choir', 'women', 'men'

All sing this refrain:



All **Refrain**

Choir I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my god while I have my being.

Women Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, for there is no help in them.

Men When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.

All **Refrain**

Choir Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;

Women Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps faith for ever;

Men Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

All **Refrain**

Choir The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

Women The Lord loves the righteous and cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

Men The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

All **Refrain**

THE SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

Lector *The Second Reading is taken from James chapter 5...*

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Lector **The Word of the Lord.**

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as able.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John Schiavone

All sing this refrain, choir sings the verse



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

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

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

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

Celebrant When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

Celebrant

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Lector

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lector

Lord, in your mercy

People

Hear our prayer.

Lector

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lector

Lord, in your mercy

People

Hear our prayer.

Lector

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lector Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Lector Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We give thanks for the flowers given in memory of Kevin Collyer, and for all the blessings of this life, especially the birthdays this coming week of Noel Powell, Bonnie Bond, Miles Burton, Judy Ratliff, Elena Goletz, Christine McLaughlin, Liz Hopwood, Llorra Wonder, and Shirl Ahrens; and the anniversary of Cathy and Marc Jacobson.

Silence

Lector Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Lector Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially those on our parish prayer list and those we now name aloud or in our hearts (*Pause*), give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lector Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Lector We commend to your mercy all who have died, and those we now name aloud or in our hearts (*Pause*) that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lector Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Please kneel or stand as able.*

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

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. 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.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING: SERVICE OF ADMISSION

HYMN H-473 (*stanza 1*) Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.
Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE *Please be seated.*

OFFERTORY O Dayspring

Karen Marroli

PRESENTATION HYMN

VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer B

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Staff 1: Celebrant: The Lord be with you. People: And al - so with you.

Staff 2: Celebrant: Lift up your hearts. People: We lift them to the Lord.

Staff 3: Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Staff 4: 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.

Celebrant adds a proper preface.

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:

SANCTUS

PICARDY

Holy, holy, holy, reigning God of pow'r and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory, All creation seeks your light!
Bless-ed is the one who comes in your name. Bless-ed be the Lord most high!

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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 he 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, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

Paul Hillebrand

All echo the last short phrase of the cantor

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us,
(all echo) have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us,
(all echo) have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace,
(all echo) grant us peace.

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

God of Still Waiting

Alfred V. Fedak
Judy Warner and Choir

COMMUNION HYMN

While We Are Waiting

WAITING

1. While we are wait - ing, come; While we are wait - ing, come.
2. With pow'r and glo - ry, come; With pow'r and glo - ry, come.
3. Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come; Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el, While we are wait - ing, come.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two systems of staves. The first system contains the three verses of the hymn. The second system contains the concluding phrase. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

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-66

Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

STUTTGART

Come, thou long-expected Jesus born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

You are invited to remain and listen to the final act of worship, the closing Voluntary.

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Noel Nouvelet

arr. Kristin Campbell

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR

Hope and Dave, Gloria S, Blair B, Stacy H, Dan S, Mandeville P, Mavis S, Enez P, Michael W, Andrew L, Glenn R, Mike P, Lou F, Colette S, Heather S, Linda, The Keelers, Carol C, Tony B, the people of Jamaica in the wake of Hurricane Melissa, Millicent L, Lynne H, Butch N, Mary Ann W, Mara S and family, Maureen B, Helen Marie, Bonnie S, Bill G, Priscilla B, Indra E, the people of Ukraine, Jim T, Mark and Maryellen, and Kam M.

SERVING US TODAY

Celebrant	The Rev. Whitney Burton
Preacher	Cindy Huffman
Organist/Choirmaster	Tom Huffman
Cantor	Brody Holland
Violin	Karen Reimers
Crucifer	Alice Scotti
Torch/Chalicists	Dan Depies and Andrea Zahn
Lectors	Stephanie Scotti and Sharon Ozbun
Prayers of the People	Nancy Fisher
Ushers	Stephanie Scotti and Nancy Fisher Alan Mackay and Jay Ozbun
Buildings and Grounds	Caroline Maisel
Welcome Table	Gerry Boone

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Birthdays – Noel Powell, Bonnie Bond, Miles Burton, Judy Ratliff, Elena Goletz, Christine McLaughlin, Liz Hopwood, Llorra Wonder, and Shirl Ahrens

Anniversary – Cathy and Marc Jacobson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Longest Night – Wednesday, December 17 (formerly called Blue Christmas) 6 PM.

Farm Worker Collection – we are gathering gifts for farm workers and their families in our area. Please donate toys, toiletries, rice and beans, and other shelf-stable food.

Christmas Music & Flowers – To donate for our Christmas services, use the special envelopes found in the church pews. The deadline is today.

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols – today at 4 PM at St. Alfred's Episcopal Church, 1601 Curlew Road, Palm Harbor. Presented by the combined choirs of St. Alfred's and Good Shepherd, led by Kevin Johnson and Thomas Huffman. This service includes scripture lessons, carols, and anthems that retell the story of humankind's fall from grace, the old testament prophecy of a promised Messiah, the Annunciation, the Birth of Jesus, and the adoration of the shepherds and the magi. A little Advent party will follow the service.

Regular Meetings:

Wednesday Bible study - from 2 to 3:30 in the lounge; studying the book of Hebrews.

Cursillo Meeting – every 3rd Sunday (December 21st) after both services.

Youth Group – second Sundays (today) at 11:30 AM in the Youth Room.

Daughters of the King – fourth Sundays meeting at 11:30 AM to 1 PM in the lounge.

Soul Sisters - Saturday, December 20 at 10 A.M. in Kirk Hall. We will have a light brunch and a white elephant gift exchange and other games. Please RSVP to Elena Goletz.