

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 14, 2025

8:00 AM Service

Holy Communion: Rite I



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www.COGSDunedin.com

E-Mail the church office: info@cogsdunedin.com

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

Our Sunday 10:00 AM 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.

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



Virtual Worship Bulletins

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remain seated.

ACCLAMATION

Please stand as able.

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... 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

Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING

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 146:4-9

Lector *We will read responsively from Psalm 146...*

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

People **Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise for ever;**

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

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

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

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

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.**

THE GOSPEL

Please stand as able.

Matthew 11:2-11

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

The Celebrant will read the Gospel.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

SERMON

Please be seated.

Cindy Huffman

NICENE CREED

Please 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Celebrant 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. *(pause)* God of Light and Life,

People **We pray to you.**

Lector Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops, especially to Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Douglas, our Bishop; Whitney, our Rector; to our companion diocese of the Dominican Republic; to these Episcopal Churches in our Diocese; The Smith Center, DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center and St. Thomas Chapel; St. Anselm's Chapel, University of South Florida Chapel Center; Florida Gulf Coast University, Ft. Myers; Episcopal College Chaplaincies: College of Florida Chaplaincy, Bradenton, and Clergy spouses and widows of the Diocese of Southwest Florida; 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. *(pause)* God of Light and Life,

People **We pray to you.**

Lector 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. *(pause)* God of Light and Life,

People **We pray to you.**

Lector 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. *(pause)* God of Light and Life,

People **We pray to you.**

Lector And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor 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. *(pause)* God of Light and Life,

People **We pray to you.**

Lector 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 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. *(pause)* God of Light and Life,
People **We pray to you.**

Lector And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear. Please add names of those on your heart, silently or aloud. *(Pause.)* 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. *(pause)* 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

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

People **Most merciful God, 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. Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Please stand as able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Please be seated.

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.

Celebrant says a proper preface

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.

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; 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 Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus David Cherwien

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 as able.*
Celebrant announces the blessing.

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

Veni Emmanuel

Gerre Hancock

SERVING US TODAY

Celebrant	Rev. Whitney Burton
Preacher	Cindy Huffman
Organist	Tom Huffman
Crucifer/Chalicer	Laura McGary
Lector	Gail Griffin
Prayers of the People	Laura McGary
Ushers	Bill and Mary Lasko



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.



CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

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

Anniversary – Marc and Cathy 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. Our refreshments will be a light brunch and there will be a white elephant gift exchange and other games. All who are interested in participating in the gift exchange should bring a wrapped gift valued at \$10.00. The gift exchange is completely voluntary. All women of the parish are invited to attend the meeting. In order to ensure that we have sufficient food, please RSVP to Elena Goletz.