

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 21, 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

Savior of the Nations, Come arr. Cathy Moklebust
Bells of Hope; Pat Cates, Director

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

Choir

*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 ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.*

--Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Daughters of the King

ENTRANCE HYMN H-436

Lift Up Your Heads

TRURO

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.

O blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes to whom this King of triumph comes!

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

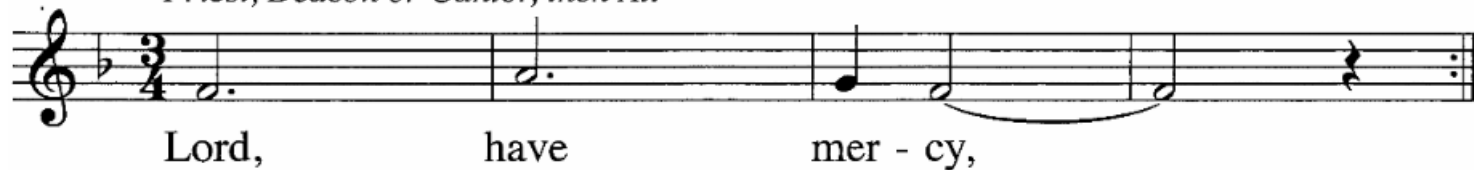
Celebrant Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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.

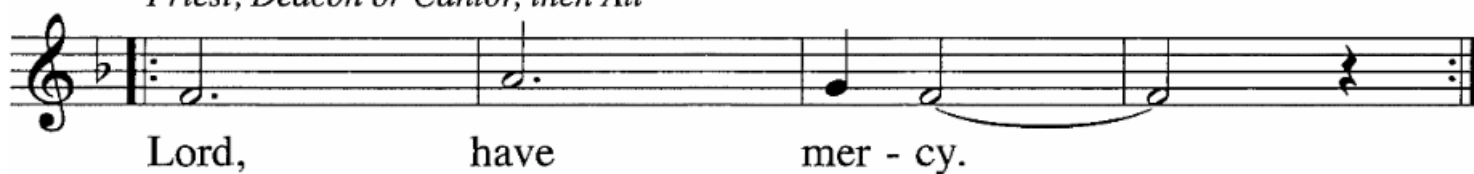
*All singing; repeat after the solo each time:
Priest, Deacon or Cantor, then All*



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... Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

Lector The First Reading is taken from Isaiah chapter 7...

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

O Shepherd, hear and lead your flock, as lambs we crave your care,
 what strength on earth approaches yours, what mercies can compare?
 Restore, O God, your favor, the radiance of your face
 to lighten and reveal the gift of your redeeming grace.

Our selfish prayers deserve God's wrath, our pride, a sudden burst;
 we have but stones to serve as bread, and tears to quell our thirst.
 Restore, O God Almighty, the radiance of your face
 to lighten and reveal the gift of your redeeming grace.

God's lineage, like a vine, once spread and flourished in the land;
 but now the vineyard fails, the fruit lies withered in the sand.
 Restore, Lord God Almighty, the radiance of your face
 to lighten and reveal the gift of your redeeming grace.

--words Michael Morgan © 1999 admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources

THE SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

Lector *The Second Reading is taken from Romans chapter 1...*

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

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

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 virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
 and they shall name him Emmanuel. Alleluia. (Refrain)

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

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

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

Celebrant Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Please be seated.

The Rev. Whitney Burton

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.

Silence

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 to the Glory of God, and for all the blessings of this life, especially the birthday this coming week of Michael Tomalesky, Bethany Elder, Aubrey Elder, Barbara Groff, Karen Morris, Nancy Fisher, Diane Linton, Sally Wakefield, Donna Brotherhood, and Jim Ratliff; and the anniversaries of Jerald and Janet Ozbun, and Miriam Benitez-Nixon and Joseph Nixon.

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 & 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.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE *Please be seated.*

OFFERTORY Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus Mark A. Miller
Cindy Huffman and Choir

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

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.

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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Charles Callahan

COMMUNION HYMN H-81

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS

**Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter when half spent was the night.**

**Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior
when half spent was the night.**

**O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;
true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us and share our every load.**

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 a like.
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)

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

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

SERVING US TODAY

Celebrant	The Rev. Whitney Burton
Organist/Choirmaster	Tom Huffman
Cantor	Brody Holland
Clarinet	Heather Wood
Crucifer	Nancy Vallely
Torch/Chalicists	Tammi Wrest and Gerry Boone
Lectors	Sheila Scott and Leslie Long
Prayers of the People	Cindy Huffman
Ushers	Hank Nalewajek and Marc Jacobson Jim and Mary Ratliff
Building & Grounds	Hank Nalewajek
Welcome Table	Lynne Henderson and Jocelyn Frenette

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Birthdays – Michael Tomalesky, Bethany Elder, Aubrey Elder, Barbara Groff, Karen Morris, Nancy Fisher, Diane Linton, Sally Wakefield, Donna Brotherhood, and Jim Ratliff

Anniversaries - Jerald and Janet Ozbun, and Miriam Benitez-Nixon and Joseph Nixon.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR

Ada H, Charles H, Carl V, Blair B, Alice S, Allie F, Charline F, Jocelyn F, Kara M, Hope and Dave, Gloria S, Blair B, Stacy H, Dan and Gloria 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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, December 24th at 5 PM – **Family Christmas Eve service and no rehearsal pageant.** This will be live-streamed.

Wednesday December 24th at 9 PM – **Candlelight Christmas service.** Festive music begins at 8:30 PM, also live-streamed on our channel on YouTube.

Thursday, December 25th at 10 AM – **Christmas Day service.** Please note that incense will be used for this service.

Sunday, December 28th at 9 AM – **First Sunday after Christmas.** One combined service, live-streamed.

Office Closure - Please note that the parish office will be closed from Wednesday, December 24th until Thursday, January 1st.

Good Shepherd History - The authors have completed their writing of “The Legacy Continues, the Church of the Good Shepherd since 1886” and are now offering it for pre-sale in Kirk Hall following each worship service. Price for the book has been set at \$35.00 during the pre-sale and will be \$40.00 after January 18, 2026. Cash, check or credit card are accepted.

Sacred Ground - The Sacred Ground Program at COGS is beginning January 13. If there is anyone who was not able to attend the information meetings, but who would still like to participate in the program, please contact the parish office.

Regular Meetings:

Wednesday Bible study - 2 to 3:30 in the lounge; studying the book of Hebrews. There will be no meeting on Wednesday, December 24th or Wednesday, December 31st.

Dunedin Cares Collection – will be sent after today.

Cursillo Meeting – no meeting in December.

Daughters of the King – no meeting in December.