

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 21, 2025

8:00 AM Service

Holy Communion: Rite I



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[www.COGSDunedin.com](http://www.COGSDunedin.com)

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

**Our Sunday 10:00 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.

**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... 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.**

## PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

*Lector*        *We will read responsively from Psalm 80...*

*Lector*        Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

*People*        **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

*Lector*        Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

*People*        **O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?**

*Lector*        You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

*People*        **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

*Lector*        Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

*People*        **Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

*Lector*        And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

*People*        **Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

## 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.**

## THE GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

*Please stand as able.*

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

*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.*

The Rev. Whitney Burton

## 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. 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; Retired clergy of the Diocese of Southwest Florida; Episcopal Charities of Southwest Florida; Episcopal Schools in the Diocese of Southwest Florida, and the seminarians 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. 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. 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. 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 for 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. 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. 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**

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Robert W. Thygerson

## 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**

Lift Up Your Heads

Gerre Hancock

## SERVING US TODAY

Celebrant The Rev. Whitney Burton

Organist Tom Huffman

Crucifer/Chalicer Tony Bowman

Lector Gail Griffin

Prayers of the People Tony Bowman

Ushers Joe and Betty Lombardo



### **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.



### **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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> until Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**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 24<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Dunedin Cares Collection** – will be sent after today.

**Cursillo Meeting** – no meeting in December.

**Daughters of the King** – no meeting in December.