

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 7, 2025

10:00 AM Service

Holy Communion: Rite II



639 Edgewater Drive • Dunedin, FL 34698

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www.COGSDunedin.com

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

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

Our Sunday 10 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.

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

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. Lloyd Larson

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 THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Daughters of the King

ENTRANCE HYMN H-56

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

(stanzas 1, 2, 3, 4)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

***Refrain:* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain***

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law, in cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain***

**O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave.
*Refrain***

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

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... Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST READING

Please be seated.

Isaiah 11:1-10

Lector *The First Reading is taken from Isaiah chapter 11...*

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him,
and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 84

SINE NOMINE

**Almighty Lord, how lovely is that place
where you are dwelling, robed in light and grace!
Oh, how we long to see you, face to face! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**At times we sigh, are slow to sing your praise,
yet find in you the strength for all our days,
as desert paths are flooded by your grace! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**From strength to strength we live each passing year,
led by your love, which casts away all fear,
till we in Zion surely shall appear! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Lord, hear my prayer, with favor look on me;
there is no place that I would rather be
than in your courts, to dwell eternally! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

THE SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

Lector *The Second Reading is taken from Romans chapter 15...*

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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:



*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.*

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

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

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

Celebrant In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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.
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.
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 to the Glory of God, and for all the blessings of this life, especially the birthdays this coming week of Dick Smedley, Andrea Zahn, Ayden Watson, Marilyn Nalewajek, and Bill Elmendorf; and the anniversary of Wayne and Jane Morris.

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.

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.

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 BLESSING OF DECEMBER'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE *Please be seated.*

OFFERTORY My Lord, What a Morning arr. Jay Althouse
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 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:

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

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:

People **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

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

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland
(Savior of the Nations, Come)

Denis Bédard

COMMUNION HYMN #54

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

Savior of the Nations, Come

Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, both heaven and Earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous child of the virgin undefiled!
Mighty God and Mary's son, eager now his race to run!

Thus on earth the Word appears, gracing his created spheres;
Hence to death and hell descends, then the heavenly throne ascends.

Come, O Father's saving Son, who o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall your kingdom be; grant that we its glories see.

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-65

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.
 His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
 All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.
 Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

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

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Paul Manz
 (1919-2009)

SERVING US TODAY

Celebrant	The Rev. Whitney Burton
Organist/Choirmaster	Tom Huffman
Crucifer	Linda Wells
Torch/Chalicists	Joe Nixon & Miriam Benitez-Nixon
Lectors	Linda Corliss and Maureen Belote
Prayers of the People	Miriam Benitez-Nixon
Ushers	Linda Corliss and Hank Nalewajek
Building & Grounds	Pat Cates
Welcome Table	Maureen Belote and Stephanie Scotti

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR

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 – Dick Smedley, Andrea Zahn, Ayden Watson, Marilyn Nalewajek,
and Bill Elmendorf

Anniversary – Wayne and Jane Morris

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Quilt and Craft Sale – today from 9 AM - 12 noon in Kirk Hall. Proceeds and donations will support Pack-a-Sack.

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 next Sunday, December 14th.

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols – Sunday, December 14th 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:

Game Night – second Fridays (December 12th) at 6 PM in the Patio Room.

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 (December 14th) 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.