

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 7, 2025

8:00 AM Service

Holy Communion: Rite I



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

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... 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

Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING

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.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Lector *We will read responsively from Psalm chapter 72...*

Lector Give the King your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the King's Son;

People **That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

Lector That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.

People **He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

Lector He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

People **He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

Lector In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

People **Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous deeds!**

Lector And blessed be his glorious Name for ever!
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

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.**

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

Please stand as able.

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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 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 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.**

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; to these Episcopal Churches in our Diocese; St. Mary's, Bonita Springs; St. Mark's, Marco Island; St. John's, Naples; St. Monica's, Naples; St. Paul's, Naples, and Trinity-by-the-Cove, Naples; 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. 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 birthdays this coming week of Dick Smedley, Andrea Zahn, Ayden Watson, Marilyn Nalewajek, and Bill Elmendorf; and the anniversary of Wayne and Jane Morris. 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 BLESSING OF NOVEMBER'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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

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

Denis Bédard

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

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Paul Manz
(1919-2009)

SERVING US TODAY

Celebrant The Rev. Whitney Burton

Organist Tom Huffman

Crucifer/Chalicer Brettan Dickie

Lector London Bates

Prayers of the People Brettan Dickie

Ushers John Schmidt and Jay Harvey



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)

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 assure that we have sufficient food, please RSVP to Elena Goletz.