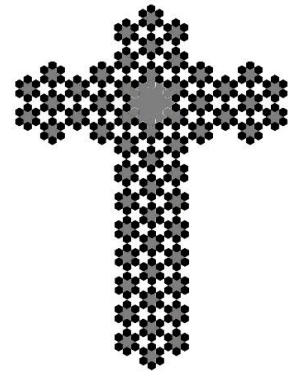


# The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 2, 2025

8:00 AM Service

Holy Communion: Rite I



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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.**

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.



# GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please remain seated.*

## ACCLAMATION

*Please stand.*

*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... Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; 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

Malachi 3:1-4

*Lector*        *The First Reading is taken from Malachi chapter 3...*

Thus says the Lord, See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 24:7-10

*Lector*        *We will read responsively from Psalm 24...*

*Lector*        Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

*People*        **"Who is this King of glory?" "The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle."**

*Lector*        Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

*People*        **"Who is he, this King of glory?" "The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory."**

## THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:14-18

*Lector*        *The Second Reading is taken from Hebrews chapter 2...*

Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

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

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

*Celebrant* When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

The Rev. Kathleen Walter

**NICENE CREED** *Please stand.*

*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; Doug, our Bishop; Whitney, our Rector; Kathy, our Assisting Priest; to our companion diocese of the Dominican Republic; to these Episcopal Churches in our Diocese; St. James' House of Prayer, Tampa; St. John's, Tampa; St. Mark's, Tampa; St. Mary's, Tampa; St. Catherine's, Temple Terrace; Holy Innocents Church, Valrico; St. Paul's Wesley Chapel, and St. Elizabeth's, Zephyrhills; 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 [*Add names from notebook*] and 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. [*Leave time...*] 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 to the Glory of God, in honor of Emily J. Bowman by Priscilla and Tony Bowman and in memory of Helen & James Burbol by Cathy and Marc Jacobson, and for all the blessings of this life, especially the birthdays this coming week of London Bates, Ronald Pylman, Sharon De Vore, Peter Brotherhood, Robyn Harker, Betsey Grimmer, Donna Charles, Charlotte Smedley and for the anniversary of Michelle and Chris Schombs. 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, [*especially... add names from notebook*]. Please add the names of those on your heart, silently or aloud. [*Leave time...*] 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

*Please kneel or stand.*

*Celebrant* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God. [*Silence is kept.*] Most merciful God,

*People* **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.

*People* **Amen.**

## THE GREETING OF PEACE

*Please stand.*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*Please be seated.*

### THE PRESENTATION

### 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

I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

arr. Robert Hobby

## 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.*

*Celebrant announces the blessing.*

*People* **Amen.**

*Deacon* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People* **Thanks be to God!**

## VOLUNTARY

Toccata on ST. ANNE

Gordon Young  
(1919-1998)

## SERVING US TODAY

Celebrant	The Rev. Kathleen Walter
Organist	Tom Huffman
Crucifer/Chalicer	Michelle Schombs
Lector	Barbara Groff
Prayers of the People	Michelle Schombs
Ushers	John Schmidt, Bob DeStefano

### Prayers are requested for:

**The Week of Jan 26** – Judith & Nels A, Helen Marie, Priscilla & Tony B, Gene & Maureen B, Mandeville P, Mavis S, Michelle and Family, Gerry B, Billy G. W., Linda, Charles H, Becky G, Blair B, Gloria S, Rhiannon S, Jen E, Dorothy C, Carol W, Jodie H, Pat B, Liz N, David Q, Adam R, David B, Olena & Family, Milly L, Bob S, Anne C, Ryan S, Colette S, Lou F, Heather S, Bonnie L, Dolores C, Marylynne J, Vanessa E, Nancy V, Billy V, Michele B, Lisa W, Sandi A, Judy M, Lisa A, Tracy E, Desmond B and Family, Phil A and Family, Jared J and Family

**Celebrations this week: Birthdays** – London Bates, Ronald Pylman, Sharon De Vore, Peter Brotherhood, Robyn Harker, Betsey Grimmer, Donna Charles, Charlotte Smedley

**Anniversaries** – Michelle and Chris Schombs

## Announcements

**Discretionary Fund Sunday** – Today all loose plate offering will be designated for the Rector’s Discretionary Fund to help those in our parish and our community who need help meeting their utility bills. Checks may be designated “Discretionary Fund”. Please give generously to help those in our community.

**United Faiths Walk of Peace** – The Annual United Faiths Walk of Peace is today, Sunday, February 2 at Pioneer Park. Registration begins at 1:30PM, walk begins at 2:00PM.

**One, Combined Service** – Next Sunday on February 9<sup>th</sup> we will gather for one worship service at 9AM. Father Andrew Gerns will join us for worship. Our Annual Meeting will follow.

**Annual Meeting** – Next Sunday is our Annual Meeting on Feb 9. This is the church’s annual business meeting. Along with reports and recognitions, we will be electing new Vestry Members, Endowment Board Members, and delegates to the Diocesan Convention.

**Spring Formation** – Explore Spring Formation opportunities as the weather warms and we come together to deepen our faith. See posters, weekly news and announcements details.

**Wednesday Bible Study** - Wednesday Bible Study continues with a study of the Book of Isaiah from 12:30 PM to 2 PM. If you’re interested in purchasing a study book, please contact Cindy Huffman or call the church office. The books are priced at \$8. While not mandatory for the study, they can be beneficial for personal study and enhancing our weekly discussions.

**Parish Game Night** – Bring your favorite board game and your favorite beverage and meet in the Patio room on February 14 at 6:00 PM for an evening of fun and friendly competition. RSVP to Cheryl Sharpe.

**Soul Sisters** – The next Soul Sister’s meeting will be held February 15 at 10AM in Kirk Hall. All ladies of the parish are welcome.

**Book Club** – Next month’s book will be *Saving Sam* by Sam Goodwin. Join us for the discussion at the next club meeting on February 16 at 11:30AM.

**Youth Group** – Youth group will meet on February 16 at 11:45AM. All students, 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, are welcome. Lunch will be provided.

**Altar Flowers** – Altar flowers may be dedicated in honor or in memory of a loved one. Please call the church office to request your dedication, the date and submit your payment of \$25 per vase.

**COGS 140th Anniversary Committee** – The parish will be 140 years old next year and a committee is working to plan activities in celebration during the week of February 1-8, 2026. If you have photos or documents before 2010 that you wish to share please contact Pat Cates. These will be copied and returned.