Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

400 West Duarte Road, Arcadia, California 91007
(626) 447-2181 / www.cgsum.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Second Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Greens and Communion Sunday

Broadcast Live to Facebook/CGSUM and to CGSUM.ORG

Sunday, December 7, 2025 10:00 a.m.

As we prepare for worship, let us be in prayer and meditation.
Please "Check In" on social media, then set all electronic devices to silent mode.
Remember to sign the attendance pad.
The Offering Box is located in the Sanctuary entryway.

Prelude "The First Noel" arr. Cherwie
Stephen Cook, Director of Music

Chimes

Introit "Come, Promised One" by John D. Becker
Chancel Choir; Kirk Averitt, Director

Welcome and Greeting *Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin*

Passing the Peace

***Call to Worship** *Kim Reynolds, Lay Reader*

One: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the King?
All: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

One: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the eternal Christ?
All: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, evergreen.

One: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, our Savior?
All: With wreaths of holly and ivy, symbolizing his passion, death and resurrection.

One: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus, the Son of God?
All: By hearing again the words of the prophets who foretold the saving work of God.

One: For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.
All: Glory to God in the highest!

**The congregation standing, if able.*

***Opening Hymn** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Red Hymnal **#196**

Anthem "Advent Celebration" by Patterson
Children's Choir; Diane Lucas, Director; Janice Clark, Accompanist

The Word for Children

The Wreath The Everlasting Love

Reading Isaiah 11:1-6 *Kim Reynolds, Lay Reader*

Anthem "We'll Dress this House" by Alfred Burt
Chancel Choir; Kirk Averitt, Director

The Lighting of the Advent Candle of Peace *John and Leslie Kenan*

Congregation Response

In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.

The Bough and Bows A Path of Peace

Reading Isaiah 40:1-5

Anthem "People Look East" arr. Helman
Combined Youth Bells and Carillon Ringers; Carolyn Noonchester, Director

The Garland The Chains of Hope

Reading Isaiah 53:2-5

Anthem "A Gospel Noel" arr. J.L. Clark
Youth Choir; Janice Clark, Director, Franklyn Shen, Accompanist

Scripture Lesson *Kim Reynolds, Lay Reader*

*Matthew 24:36-44

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn of Preparation** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *(vs. 1 & 2)* Red Hymnal **#211**

Sermon "Advent is Peace: To Prepare the Way" *Rev. Thai-Erwin*

The Lighting of the Christmas Trees The Signs of Joy

Offertory and Doxology

" Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" Red Hymnal #**94**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation:
The Lord be with You. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Consecration *Rev. Thai-Erwin*

The Prayer After Receiving and The Lord's Prayer *Rev. Thai-Erwin*

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, forever. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *(vs. 3 & 4)* Red Hymnal **#211**

Commission and Benediction Blessing

Take time in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection –
For the light of God's love is discernible everywhere.
We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder,
And set aside time to offer quiet thanks.
The good news of Advent is this
Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.
We will welcome Christ into our hearts.
We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry.
We will go forth from this place in hope.

Benediction Response **"Peace, Peace/Silent Night"** arr. Bock

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child, Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Postlude "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" arr. Lani Smith
Stephen Cook

**The congregation standing, if able*

The Church of the Good Shepherd Announcements

Shop and Donate for Christmas! Today and next Sunday we will have the **Alternative Christmas** Market happening in Fellowship Hall after worship. Featured are hand-created items from our **Crafters Mini Boutique.** There will be tables where you can make personal donations directly to groups such as gift cards for **Foothill Unity's Toy Drive** as well as **Heifer Project, Union Rescue Mission and others. Heavenly Treasures** is also offering their selection of specially crafted gifts from around the world supporting their missions. As an added bonus,, **today** the **Youth are having a Bakes Sale for SSP.** Enjoy a treat or two!

Don't miss the annual **Lessons and Carols Service is next Sunday, December 14th.** Invite your family and friends to experience this meaningful, musical worship that celebrates the Advent season. Music from the Chancel Choir, a professional string quintet, and the Syrinx Wind Quartet will be presented, interspersed with scripture and thoughtful readings..

The Christmas Pageant will be here soon! The **Christmas Eve Family Service is at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, December 24th.** The Children's Choir, Youth Choir, and Youth Bells will be performing with the cast for the Nativity story. All children, youth, young adults and adults are welcome to participate. **Rehearsal is Sunday, December 21st from 11:15-1:00 pm,** with lunch included. Contact Cindy Ostry (childcenter@cgsum.org) or Franklyn Shen at (fnjshen@sbcglobal.net).

Trek to the Tree is Sunday, December 21st. Bring your Christmas Offering envelopes.

There's a **Children's Center Fundraiser on Tuesday, December 9th at Chipotle, Arcadia.** *See the flyer on the reverse side of this insert for details.*

Have you made your pledge yet? Help us meet our goal for **2026 Pledges** by turning in your Pledge Card to the office or the offering box in the Sanctuary by **December 31st, 2025.** (*See the article in this week's newsletter.)*

SCAM Alert! Be cautious! Delete any **spam** or **fake emails and texts** from hackers impersonating Pastor Eva or any church staff.



Save the Date!



December 14th - Chancel Choir's Lessons and Carols Service
and Alternative Christmas Market Final Day
December 21st - Trek to the Tree Service
December 24th - Christmas Eve Services (5:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 11:00 pm)
December 28th - Christmas Carols Hymn Sing Service

Sundays at Good Shepherd

- 8:30 a.m. or TBD Chancel Choir
- 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class
- 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Nursery Care available for infants and toddlers
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Classes for Children and Youth
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship for all in the Hall after worship
- 11:30 a.m. Children's Choir, Youth Bells Choir
- 12:30 p.m. Youth Choir

We also offer luncheons, forums, meetings, and new member sessions on various Sundays. Please visit the church website or scan the QR code for more info on events, ministries, and online giving.

Ministers: Members of the Congregation
Resident Bishop: Bishop Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank
District Superintendent: Rev. Moonyoung Lee
Pastor: Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry: Franklyn Shen
Director of Music Ministries: Stephen Cook
Director of the Good Shepherd Children's Center: Linda Bro

Mission Statement: At Church of the Good Shepherd, God calls us to welcome all to a vibrant community on a continuing journey of Faith, Growth, Justice, and Service in the image of Christ.