# *Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church*

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

## ORDER OF WORSHIP
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**
**Youth Sunday, Trek to the Tree and Sacrament of Baptism**
**Broadcast Live to Facebook/CGSUM and to CGSUM.ORG**

Sunday, December 21, 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. A. Urbanowicz
*Isabelle Chan, Violin*

**Chimes**

**Introit** "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" arr. Dorothy & Tom Christopherson
*Youth Choir; Janice Clark, Director; Franklyn Shen, Accompanist*

**Welcome and Greeting** *Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin*

**Passing the Peace**

***Call to Worship** *Morgan Noonchester and Angela Zhang, Lay Readers*

Leader: As we gather today, may we rejoice in the wondrous thing that God has done.
**People: Our hearts are filled with the hope that the world received.**
Leader: As we near Christmas, may we focus not on parties and presents, but on the gift of the Christ child.
**People: Our minds are focused on this gift of joy!**
Leader: As we slow down from the busyness, may we reflect on God's call for us.
**People: Our souls are complete with the sense of peace that comes with faithful purpose.**
Leader: As we worship today, may we join the chorus of angels in giving thanks.
**People: And together we welcome God's eternal love through Christ, the newborn King!**

**The congregation standing, if able.*

***Opening Hymn** "Angels from the Realms of Glory" Red Hymnal **#220**

**The Word for Children**

**Anthem** "Christmas Joy" by Roger Emerson
*Youth Choir; Janice Clark, Director; Franklyn Shen, Accompanist*

**Advent Wreath: Lighting of the Love Candle** *The Noonchester Family*

Reader 1: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah . . . from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day." (Michah 5:2). Today we receive Christ, the one who came to fulfill God's promise to the world.

Reader 2: We light this candle of Love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

**Congregation: God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.**

**Sacrament of Holy Baptism** Red Hymnal Pages 39-43

*Ryan Anthony Geis* *Matthew Jason Geis* *Samantha Jean Geis*

Rev. Eva Thai Erwin and Rev. Dr. Philip Wood

***Congregational Response** "God's Child" Holland and Blodgett

1. This is the day that one more child is gonna be brought up in God's own way.
2. Guard this child with love and care and show them that God's always there.
3. Surround these parents with your love. Peace and joy to them assure.

*Refrain: He's your brother, my sister, God's child, everyone's own.*

**Anthem** "Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head" arr. Lamb
*Youth Bells; Carolyn Noonchester, Director*

**Scripture Lesson** *Morgan Noonchester and Angela Zhang, Lay Readers*

Isiaah 7:10-16
*Matthew 1:18-25
Leader: The Word of God for the people of God
**People: Thanks be to God**

***Hymn of Preparation** "Jesus, Name Above All Names" TFWS Black Hymnal **#2071**

**Sermon** "Advent is Love: To Show Righteous Love" *Rev. Thai-Erwin*

**Trek to the Tree** Bringing Our Christmas Offerings Forward

**Offertory Prayer and Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**Announcements**

***Closing Hymn** "That Boy-Child of Mary" Red Hymnal **#241**

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** **"Peace, Peace/Silent Night"** by Rick and Sylvia Powell

**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** "Joy to this Jazzy World" arr. Michael Sorg
*Franklyn Shen, Piano*

**The congregation standing, if able*

***The altar flowers today are given in honor of our wonderful Chancel Choir and Music Staff by Pastor Eva.***

## ***The Church of the Good Shepherd Announcements***

**We are happy to welcome in Baptism today the children of members Jason and Mary Ann Geis. The grandparents are Tony and Jean Parrille and Carl and Susan Geis.**

**The Christmas Eve Pageant 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. **Rehearsal for participants is today from 11:15-1:00 pm.**

**Hymn Sing next Sunday, December 28th in the Chapel!** All are encouraged to wear your Christmas attire!

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.)*

**The Church Office will be closed for Christmas and New Year's beginning Monday, December 22nd, 2025 through Friday, January 2nd, 2026.**

**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 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 Brown

***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.***