Church of the Good Shepherd
United Methodist

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 10, 2023 10:00 a.m.

Prelude "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" arr. Carter
Stephen Cook, Director of Music

The Chimes

Introit "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" arr. Chad Fothergill
Chancel Choir; Kirk Averitt, Director

Words of Welcome *Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin*

Passing the Peace

***Call to Worship** (*based on Isaiah 40)* *Lou Quismorio, Lay Reader*

One: Listen! The voice of God calls out across the ages.
Many: We hear and respond to this invitation.
One: Rise up! Worship God from the valleys, the mountains, and the plains.
Many: Like a shepherd God leads us and tenderly gathers us together.
One: Receive! His comfort for his people.
Many: The love and word of God will stand forever!

***Opening Hymn** "My Soul Gives Glory to My God" Red UM Hymnal #**198**

The Word with Children **Children are invited to come sit in the front.*

Anthem "The Glory of the Father" by Egil Howard; arr. Pooler
Chancel Choir; Kirk Averitt, Director

Pastoral Prayer and 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.

Advent Wreath: Lighting of the Peace Candle *The Linder Family*

Reader 1: In the days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins" (Isaiah 40:1). We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

Reader 2: We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God.

Congregation: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all. Amen.

Scripture Reading *Lou Quismorio, Lay Reader*

Isaiah 40:1-8
*Mark 1:1-8
Leader: The Word of God for the people of God
People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Preparation "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Red UM Hymnal #**196**

Sermon Message "A Just Peace" *Rev. Thai-Erwin*

Special Music "Make Them Hear You" *(From "Ragtime")* by Stephen Flaherty
Garrison Holder, Soloist; Stephen Cook, Accompanist

Announcements

***Closing Hymn** "O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines" Red UM Hymnal **#729**

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** "Peace, Peace/Silent Night"

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** "Angels We Have Heard on High" arr. Paige *Stephen Cook*

**The congregation standing, if able.*

Chancel flowers this morning are given: in memory of Knight Raymond's birthday by David and Jacki Raymond; and in memory of Mike Sullivan by Lynne Rivera.

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Alive!

Christmas Eve Pageant is coming! We need animals, shepherds, magi, and angels for our traditional Christmas Eve Family Service (5:00 pm, Sunday, December 24th). Children's Choir, Youth Choir, and Youth Bells will also be participating. We will have one rehearsal for the Pageant on Sunday, December 17th from 11:15 am to 1:00 pm. Lunch will be served. If you are not able to attend the rehearsal, please let Cindy Ostry (childcenter@cgsum.org) or Franklyn Shen (fnjshen@sbcglobal.net) know and we'll save a costume for you! All children, youth, young adults, and adults are welcome to participate.

Alternative Christmas Market – Fellowship Hall – today and the 17th! Hand-crafted items from around the world through Shop With a Mission. Church World Service and Heifer Project are also featured, along with Habitat for Humanity and Family Promise.

Remember, **Foothill Unity's Angels'** gifts due and the **Holiday Food Drive** also continues.

Shepherds will have our **December meeting on the 12th, 6:00 pm at Matt Denny's** (145 East Huntington Dr., Arcadia). There is good parking in back of the restaurant. We will be ordering from the menu and be seated on their **heated, covered** patio. RSVP to Dave Raymond – email – dlraymond66@gmail.com – by today!

The CSArtrs School of Music is presenting their annual **Holiday Festivus** concert in our Sanctuary on Friday, **December 15th** and Saturday, **December 16th at 7:00 pm.** Discount admission for CGS members. See The Word for details.

Christmas Offering Letters have been sent out and special envelopes have been placed in the pews. **Reminder**, your Tithes & Pledges and all financial donations for the 2023 year are greatly appreciated and should be submitted by December 31st.

2024 Altar Flowers – The new cost for flowers beginning in 2024 is **$65**. Payment is via check, cash or online. Checks should be made out to Church of the Good Shepherd, with "Flowers" in the memo line. To place your request, please contact Suzanne Wright in the church office by phone, or email: swright@cgsum.org.

SUNDAY 10:00AM SERVICES IN ADVENT:

- **December 17th – Lessons and Carols Service and Trek to the Tree followed by fellowship time with gingerbread cookie decorating, cider and cocoa!**
- **December 24th – Chapel Open on Christmas Eve between 10-11 AM for personal devotion time.**

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH:

- **5:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service with Nativity Pageant**
- **9:00 PM Traditional Service with Choir and Guest Musicians**
- **11:00 PM Chapel Service followed by Candlelight Closing Circle In the Courtyard**

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

Church of the Good Shepherd Mission:
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.