Church of the Good Shepherd
United Methodist

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
First Sunday of Advent
THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

Sunday, December 3, 2023 10:00 a.m.

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

The Chimes

Introit "Let All Mortal Flesh Be Silent" arr. Wissinger
Carillon Ringers; Carolyn Noonchester, Director

Words of Welcome *Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin*

Passing the Peace

***Call to Worship** Joann Steinmeier, *Lay Reader*

One: We come from a world of weariness.
Many: Into God's Hope and Joy!

One: We come from a world of darkness.
Many: Into Christ's world of Peace and Light!

One: We come from a slumbering world.
Many: Into the Holy Spirit's Love and Strength!

All: Together, let us behold the coming of Christ, the gift of Emmanuel for the world.

LIFTING PRAISE

***Opening Hymn** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Red UM Hymnal #**211**

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

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Advent Wreath: Lighting of the Hope Candle *John and Leslie Kenan*

Reader 1: In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. For when you did wondrous things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

Reader 2: We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God's activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life and salvation.

Congregation: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us. May the light of Hope shine upon us this Advent Season. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and Prayer of Confession
(adapted from "Hold Fast to What is Good" by Beth Merrill Neel)

Holy god, we confess that we have often forgotten what this story is about - the story of the birth of Jesus. We wrap ourselves with so much planning, shopping, decorating and social gatherings that we haven't left any time to sit in silence, to contemplate the Incarnation, to give thanks for this one life that changed the world. We still need You to turn us around and set us in the right direction. May the generosity that drives us this season be present all year. And may our hearts be full of love for You, for You Son, and for You people.

BOUGHS AND BOWS – THE PATH OF PEACE

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 54:9-10 *Rev. Thai-Erwin*

Placing the Pew Boughs and Bows

Anthem "We'll Dress This House" Alfred Burt

GARLAND – THE HARVEST OF RIGHTEOUNESS

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 64:1-4 *Joann Steinmeier, Lay Reader*

Placing the Garland

Anthem "I Wonder as I Wander" arr. Howland
Youth Bells; Carolyn Noonchester, Director

WREATHS – ALL FLESH WILL SEE

***Gospel Lesson** Matthew 13:24-31 *Joann Steinmeier, Lay Reader*

***Hymn of Preparation** "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"
Red UM Hymnal #**206**

Placing the Wreath

Anthem "My Lord He is a Comin' Soon" Laura Winnen
Chancel Choir; Kirk Averitt, Director

The Message "A Shocking Hope" *Rev. Thai-Erwin*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREES

Anthem "O Christmas Tree" *Traditional, arr. J.L. Clark*
Youth Choir; Janice Clark, Director; Franklyn Shen, Accompanist

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.

The Preparation: **Luke 22:14-20**

The Receiving:

Christ's table is open to all. All persons who wish to walk in new life with Christ are invited to receive the wafer and juice, without regard to past history, denominational affiliation, or any of the wonderful ways that God has made each of us unique beings. Please come forward at the ushers' direction.

The Prayer After Receiving and the Lord's Prayer *(Unison)*

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.

SENDING FORTH
TO BE THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

Announcements

***Closing Hymn** "Hope of the World" Red UM Hymnal **#178**

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

**The congregation standing, if able.*

Chancel flowers this morning are given: in memory of John Zessau by Dottie Zessau; and the rosebud on the altar is in celebration of Dottie's new great grandson, Cameron James.

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Alive!

Alternative Christmas Market – Fellowship Hall – December 3, 10 and 17! Hand-crafted items from around the world. Church World Service and Heifer Project are also featured.

Poinsettias – today last day to order! They will decorate our sanctuary through the Christmas Eve 9:00 pm service.

Remember, **Foothill Unity's Angels'** gifts due by next Sunday 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). Parking in back is best. Ordering will be from their menu. RSVP to Dave Raymond – email – dlraymond66@gmail.com – or other contact by the 10th.

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.