Church of the Good Shepherd

United Methodist

400 West Duarte Road, Arcadia, California 91007 - (626) 447-2181

www.cgsum.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Epiphany and Communion Sunday

Sunday, January 7, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Broadcast Live to Facebook/CGSUM and to CGSUM.ORG

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.

Prelude "Gentle Jesus, Be Our Light" by Michael Shea
Stephen Cook, Director of Music

The Chimes

Introit "Alleluia Incantation" by Andrew Miller
Sophia Thompson, Abbey Miller, Felicity Robles; Kirk Averitt, Directing

Welcome and Greeting *Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin*

Passing the Peace

***Call to Worship** *Janice Clark, Lay Reader*

Leader: Arise, Shine! God's light has come in this New Year.
People: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Leader: Arise, Shine! God's light penetrates the darkness that covers the world.
People: Nations shall come to God's light and the people to the brightness of God's dawn.

All: Arise, Shine! For the Glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

***Opening Hymn** "Morning Has Broken" Red UM Hymnal #**145**

The Word for Children **Children are invited to come sit in the front.* **Prayer of Confession**

We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Anthem "I Am Light" by India Arie, arr. Darita Seth
Sophia Thompson, Abbey Miller, Felicity Robles; Kirk Averitt Directing

Scripture Lessons *Janice Clark, Lay Reader*
Isaiah 60:1-6
*Matthew 2:1-12
Leader: The Word of God for the people of God
People: Thanks be to God

***Hymn of Preparation** "We Three Kings" *(vs1, 2, 5)* Red UM Hymnal #**254**

Sermon Message "What Gift Can We Bring" *Rev. Thai-Erwin*

Special Music "Take It to the Lord in Prayer" by Nolan Williams, Jr.
Sophia Thompson, Abbey Miller, Felicity Robles; Kirk Averitt Directing

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Thanksgiving and Communion **Red UM Hymnal pgs. 9-11**

Receiving the Bread and Cup
Christ's table is open to all. All persons who wish to walk in new life with Christ are invited are invited to receive the bread 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. You may go to the altar rail, kneel in prayer, and there receive the elements.

The 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.

Hymn After Receiving "Glory Be to the Father" Red UM Hymnal #**70**

Announcements *Rev. Thai-Erwin*

***Closing Hymn** "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" Red UM Hymnal #**173**

***Benediction** *Rev. Thai-Erwin*

***Benediction Response** "Let There Be Peace on Earth" Red UM Hymnal **#431**

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God our Creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow; to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

Postlude "Let Our Gladness Never End" *(Bohemian Carol)* arr. Cherwien
Stephen Cook

****The congregation standing, if able.*

Chancel flowers today are given: in loving memory of Shirley Brostrom Hasseler by Warren Hasseler.

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Alive!

Volunteers are needed to help take down the Advent and Christmas decorations **today after worship.** Please enjoy Coffee Fellowship Refreshments first, then meet in the Sanctuary at 11:30 to help the worship committee.

Shepherds Fellowship is having its first potluck of 2024 on Tuesday, January 9th at 6:00 pm. Our guest speaker is Kirk Averitt, Director of our Chancel Choir. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Lynne Whitaker (vlwhit@sbcglobal.net) or in person today. Lynne is asking that you bring a dessert and also a soup bowl and spoon with your usual place settings.

Sarah Circle Meeting is Thursday, January 11th at 7:00 pm in Jordan Hall – Join Us! All women of the church are cordially invited. We will be discussing program suggestions for this new year and enjoy social time with tasty treats.

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. Orders go to florist on Wednesdays.

Remember to send your articles, announcements, etc. to **The Word** editor, Stephanie Shen at cgsarcadianewsletter@gmail.com by 3:00 pm Fridays. And for **Master Calendar** requests or changes, please contact Carolyn Noonchester at cgsmastercalendar@gmail.com and please allow time for response.

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.