



The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

goodshepherd fw.org

The Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)

December 21, 2025 – 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. – Good Shepherd
1:00 p.m. – Emmanuel All Nations

Our Mission: To know Christ and to make Christ's love known to others



Wesley, Frank, 1923-2002. Blue Madonna, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59226> [retrieved December 16, 2025]. Original source: Estate of Frank Wesley, http://www.frankwesleyart.com/main_page.htm.

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Good Shepherd Clergy, Staff, and Lay Leadership

The Rt. Rev. Phil LaBelle, *Bishop* (plabelle@ecww.org)
The Rev. Josh Hosler, *Rector* (josh@goodshepherdffw.org)
The Rev. Dr. Roy McLuen, *Priest Associate (Retired)*
The Rev. Anna Lynn, *Deacon* (anna@goodshepherdffw.org)
Alan Lynch, *Director of Music* (alan@goodshepherdffw.org)
Evan Hershman, *Parish Administrator* (evan@goodshepherdffw.org)
Tetiana Chyshynska, *Sexton*
Hilary Mayhan, *Bookkeeper* (hilary@goodshepherdffw.org)
Karen White, *Senior Warden*
Judith Perkins, *Junior Warden*
Bill Gillanders, *Treasurer* (treasurer@goodshepherdffw.org)
Beth Shoemaker, *Assistant Treasurer* (at@goodshepherdffw.org)
Mary McClellan Aronen, *Ministry Coordinator*

Today's Service Ministers

Presider: The Rev. Josh Hosler
Preacher/Deacon: The Rev. Anna Lynn
Cantor: Alana O'Donnell

December 21	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Tech Team		Konrad Thomas, Dina Johnson
Zoom Usher		Zoom Team
Ushers		Linda Butcher, Tracie Manolides
Altar Guild		
Flowers		
Worship Assistant		
First Lector	Jan Barber	Dianne Aid
Second Lector/Intercessor	Roberta Kelly	Dilcia Brent
Eucharistic Ministers		Anna Lynn, Judith Perkins
Coffee Hour	Tom & Laura Jowett	Rani Rose, Lady Bridget Akparanta, Lee Hitzeman
Counters		Dina Johnson, Karen White

We sing hymns at the 10:30 service only. All music used during this service, unless otherwise noted, is licensed for online streaming through onelicense.net #609900. Art files, unless otherwise noted, are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution Noncommercial ShareAlike 3.0 License.

Welcome, Guests and Newcomers!

This is Christ's House. Come, you who feel weak and unworthy. Come, you who come often and you who have stayed away. Come, you who love Jesus, and you who wish you could. Come, sinners and saints, women, men, and gender non-conforming, gay and straight, young and old. Come, you who are lonely and long for friendship. Come, you who are homeless and you who have a place to rest your heads. Come, you who are citizens of this land and you who are not. Here you are citizens of the kingdom of God. Come join God's people at the feast prepared for you from the beginning of the world.

In addition to our weekly Sunday morning worship, we have been offering a variety of other online opportunities to connect—for people of all ages.

- Our website: goodshepherdfw.org.
- Our YouTube page: tinyurl.com/gsfwyoutube.
- Sign up for *The Shepherd's Crook*, our weekly newsletter, at tinyurl.com/goodshepemails.
- To go even deeper, join *Realm*, our online community of worshipers: onrealm.org/goodshepfw.
- Shortcut to Realm Resources for parishioners (password-protected): tinyurl.com/gsfwresources.
- Make a financial pledge to Good Shepherd for 2026: tinyurl.com/pledgegoodshep2026.

Recording and Streaming in Use

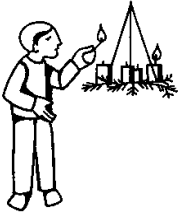
Recording and streaming in use: Please note that video cameras and microphones are capturing our 10:30 worship service, and that the resulting content is being transmitted online. Likewise, from time to time still photography of our worship services may be taken and used for church communications, websites, and other uses. By your presence within the worship space or on Zoom, you are indicating your consent to the possibility that your likeness may be captured and used in any of these ways. While video capture of congregants in the pews is relatively minimal, if you wish to guarantee you will not ever be depicted on video, the area toward the back of the pew seating area is unable to be picked up on camera.

Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that the Church of the Good Shepherd sits on a seasonal campground of the [Puyallup \(puyallup-tribe.com\)](https://puyallup-tribe.com) and [Coast Salish People](https://coast.salishpeople.com), who have lived on and stewarded these lands for thousands of years and continue to do so today. We recognize that this land acknowledgement is one small step toward true allyship, and we commit to uplifting the voices, experiences, and histories of the Indigenous people of this land and beyond.

How can you make this Land Acknowledgment more than a performative gesture? Go to the tribe's news website (<https://news.puyalluptribe-nsn.gov/>) and sign up for their newsletter. Notice what issues are important to the Puyallup people and decide how you can begin to forge a learning relationship.

Advent



"Do you know what the Church did? They tied the ending that was like a beginning and the beginning that was like an ending together, so we would always remember that for every ending there is a beginning and for every beginning there is an ending."
- Godly Play lesson *The Circle of the Church Year*

Though the "holiday season" is in full swing all around us, the Christian season of Advent is a very different time. While our broader culture worships at the altar of instant gratification and aspires to the impossibility of infinite economic growth and consumption, we Christians strive to live in a larger reality.

Advent is a solemn time. But take great care with that word, "solemn." It doesn't mean dry, boring, or overly formal. By solemnity, we mean *joy*—but the kind of joy we experience when we are in awe. Rumors abound that our salvation is on the way and may already be among us! Like children who can't wait for Christmas morning, we too must wait—actively, poised on our toes, ready to receive that salvation. We share the kind of joy that can make us *quiver* with anticipation—hardly able to hold in our excitement for what will soon be birthed in the world and in our very selves.

- Pastor Josh

Advent and Christmas at Good Shepherd

Sundays, November 30; December 7, 14, 21 –

The Four Sundays of Advent

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (*On-Site only*)

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
(*On-Site, Zoom, YouTube*)

Sunday, December 21 –

**The Greening of the Church
with Emmanuel All Nations**

After the 10:30 service: fun for all ages!

Wednesday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist (*On-Site only*)

9:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist
(*On-Site, Zoom, YouTube*)

Sunday, December 28

The First Sunday of Christmas

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
(*On-Site only*)

10:30 a.m. A Service of Lessons & Carols
(*On-Site, Zoom, YouTube*)

Sunday, January 4

The Second Sunday of Christmas

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
(*On-Site only*)

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
(*On-Site, Zoom, YouTube*)

Monday, January 5

The Eve of the Epiphany

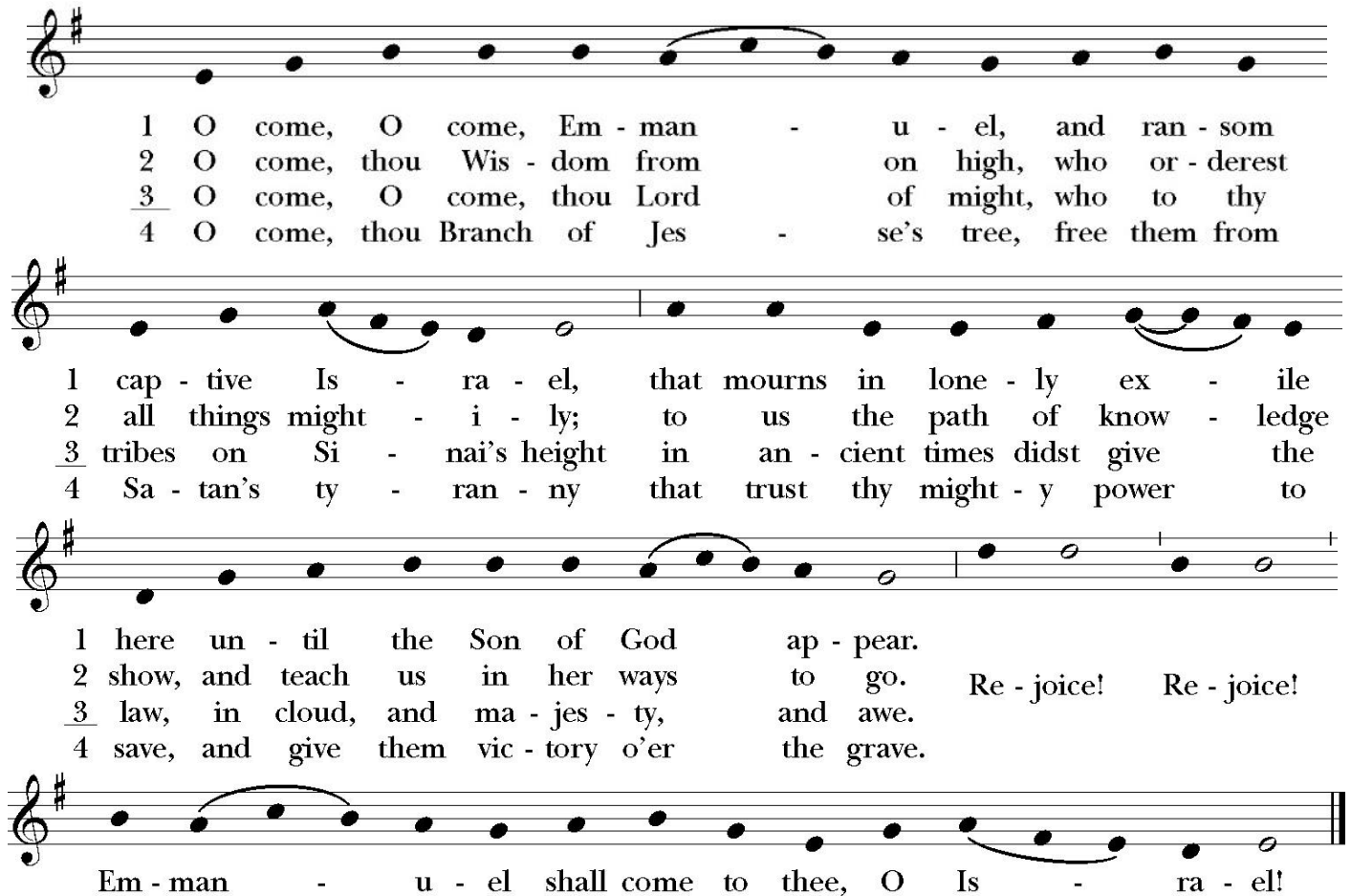
7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

HOLY EUCHARIST: Rite Two

The Liturgy of the Word

At the 8:00 service, we skip all musical portions or, where indicated, read the text of them.

Processional Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vv. 1–4 (*The Hymnal 1982* #56)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th, cent.; adpt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright ©1975, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

The Opening Acclamation

Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: You come to your people and set them free.

The Collect for Purity

Presider: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

At 8:00:

Kyrie

Presider: Lord, have mercy.

People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Presider: Lord, have mercy.

At 10:30:

Song of Praise Refrain: Wait for the Lord

Lento (♩ = 48)

The musical score is written for piano in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a tempo marking of 'Lento' with a quarter note equal to 48 beats. The key signature is G major. The first system's chords are Em (p), C, Am6, and B. The lyrics are 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' The second system's chords are Em (mf), D, G, Am, B, and Em. The lyrics are 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, — take heart!'. The score includes dynamic markings (p, mf) and articulation marks like slurs and accents.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, — take heart!

Jacques Berthier; © 1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé

Advent Canticle: The Song of Hannah (1 Samuel 2:1–8)

Spoken by a reader between refrains

My heart exults in you, O God; my triumph song is lifted in you.

My mouth derides my enemies, for I rejoice in your salvation.

There is none holy like you, nor any rock to be compared to you, our God.

REFRAIN

Do not heap up prideful words or speak in arrogance; only God is knowing and weighs all actions.
The bows of the mighty are broken, but the weak are clothed in strength.
Those once full now labor for bread, those who hungered now are well fed.
The childless woman has borne sevenfold, while the mother of many is forlorn.

REFRAIN

God destroys and brings to life, casts down and raises up; gives wealth or takes it away, humbles and dignifies.
God raises the poor from the dust; and lifts the needy from the ash heap
To make them sit with the rulers and inherit a place of honor.
For the pillars of the earth are God's on which the whole earth is founded.

REFRAIN

The Collect of the Day

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

Our readings from the Bible each week usually include one from the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures; a Psalm; one from the New Testament or Christian Scriptures; and a reading from one of the four Gospels, the accounts of the life of Jesus.

First Lesson (Isaiah 7:10–16)

Lector: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

... Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146:4–9

At 8:00, the first lector invites us to read the text as follows:

Let us pray the psalm responsively by verse.

At 10:30, the congregation is invited to sing along with the cantor or choir.

William Bayley



- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading ¹Joseph like a ¹flock; *
shine forth, you that are en¹throned up¹on the ¹cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, ¹Benjamin, and Ma¹nasseh, *
stir up your ¹strength and ¹come to ¹help us.
- †3 Restore us, O ¹God of ¹hosts; *
show the light of your ¹countenance, and ¹we shall be ¹saved.
- 4 O LORD ¹God of ¹hosts, *
how long will you be angered
de¹spite the ¹prayers of your ¹people?
- 5 You have fed them with the ¹bread of ¹tears; *
you have given them ¹bowls of ¹tears to ¹drink.
- 6 You have made us the de¹rision of our ¹neighbors, *
and our ¹enemies ¹laugh us to ¹scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O ¹God of ¹hosts; *
show the light of your ¹countenance, and ¹we shall be ¹saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the ¹man of your ¹right hand, *
the son of man you have ¹made so ¹strong for your ¹self.
- 17 And so will we never ¹turn a¹way from you; *
give us life, that we may ¹call up¹on your ¹Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD ¹God of ¹hosts; *
show the light of your ¹countenance, and ¹we shall be ¹saved.

Second Lesson (Romans 1:1–7)

Lector: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

... Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation stands as able.



Henry Ossawa Tanner, *The Annunciation* (1898)

Gradual Hymn: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (*The Hymnal 1982* #265)

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943). Copyright © 1961 B. Feldman and Co Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd. 138-140 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0LD, England.

The Gospel (Matthew 1:18–25)

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon (*The Rev. Anna Lynn*)

Sermon audio is recorded and made available on our website.

The Nicene Creed

The congregation stands as able. This statement of belief dates from the 4th century. Here we use it as a prayer. In our post-Enlightenment times, it is helpful to think of the word “believe” not as meaning merely “I intellectually assent,” but rather, “I place my trust.”

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Every week we pray, using a variety of liturgies, for the world, the church, and those in need. We offer prayers of thanks, and we remember those who have died. We maintain two channels of organized petitionary prayer, the Prayer List and the Prayer Chain.

Prayer List: *To have a name read aloud for prayer during our Sunday services on a temporary or ongoing basis, contact the Rev. Josh Hosler at rector@goodshepherdffw.org. A link to this list can be found in the Shepherd's Crook email and in Realm Resources.*

Prayer Chain: *To have a name and a concern emailed to a small group of designated parishioners for one-time, immediate prayer, contact Alisa Johnson at alisajohnson@hotmail.com.*

Deacon: *As we walk together toward the joy of Christ's coming, let us pray for the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit.*

Intercessor: O Spirit of the Living God, lead us on the path of endurance. May we, your Church, rise out of our silence and inaction to be the hands and feet of our Lord Jesus. Empower us to welcome, comfort and stand alongside those who are fearful, hurting, or oppressed. In this week's cycles of prayer, we pray for the Good Shepherd Endowment Trustees; for St. James, Cathlamet; St. Timothy, Chehalis; and All Saints', Vancouver; and for the Anglican Church of Burundi.

Silence for prayers from the congregation.

... Hear us, Holy Spirit.

Fill us with strength and courage.

O Spirit of the Living God, lead us on the path of repentance. We pray for our nation and its leaders, that we would acknowledge what is truthful, good, and righteous. May we repent of the evil systems which would persecute on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, wealth, religion, politics, or country of origin. May we all make decisions that promote peace and not division, upholding justice and equal rights for everyone living in this country.

Silence for prayers from the congregation.

... Hear us, Holy Spirit.

Fill us with strength and courage.

O Spirit of the Living God, lead us on the path of patience. May the nations of the world be filled with grace, compassion, and love for all who suffer. As we walk together toward your promised paradise, may we see God in all people, honoring all creation, a rich tapestry of color and textures—each person a special thread, intertwined in heart and soul.

Silence for prayers from the congregation.

... Hear us, Holy Spirit.

Fill us with strength and courage.

O Spirit of the Living God, lead us on the path of joy. May we create true community, intentionally seeking out and supporting one another. May we bring your loving presence and peace to all marginalized people, those living in fear and threat of exclusion and oppression. We pray for healing of relationships, the softening of hearts for all who would choose disdain and hatred over understanding and love.

Silence for prayers from the congregation.

... Hear us, Holy Spirit.

Fill us with strength and courage.

O Spirit of the Living God, lead us on the path of hope. May we reach out to those who are suffering in spirit, mind and body, touching them with your love and healing hand. We pray for

peace and wholeness for those feeling fearful, alone, or neglected, and for those facing illness and disability.

Silence for prayers from the congregation.

... Hear us, Holy Spirit.

Fill us with strength and courage.

O Spirit of the Living God, lead us on the path of peace. We pray for those who have died, for those who are dying, and for those who grieve, that they might find comfort and solace in your promise of eternal life.

Silence for prayers from the congregation.

... Hear us, Holy Spirit.

Fill us with strength and courage.

Presider: O Spirit of the Living God, the promise and anticipation of this Advent season gives us a glimpse into your Kingdom. We pray for the strengthening of our weak hands and feeble knees, that we may reach out to others, and hand in hand, walk with courage toward you. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

Deacon: Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence. The people may kneel or stand.

All: God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. **Amen.**

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

A Prayer for Birthdays and Anniversaries

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) *N.* as *they* begin[s] another year. Grant that *they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *their* trust in your goodness all the days of *their lives*; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Offertory

Presider: Reconciled to one another, let us bring our gifts to God. Let us offer our whole selves on this altar, for it has become a table richly laid for the entire world. Come share joyfully in Christ's eternal feast.

The congregation may be seated until the final verse of the offertory hymn or until motioned to stand.



To make a gift today (not an advance pledge for 2026) using your mobile device, scan the QR code on the left ... or drop a check in the offering plate ... or mail a check to the Church of the Good Shepherd, P.O. Box 3108, Federal Way, WA 98063.

On the third Sunday of each month, offerings not otherwise designated are contributed to the Rector's and Deacon's Discretionary Funds, which are used to help people in immediate need (parishioners or otherwise) or to assist new, as-yet-unbudgeted ministry opportunities.

We give not to "pay for the show," but as a spiritual practice of participation for the good of the world and of our souls. The Church of the Good Shepherd is able to operate because of the pledges of its members. We strongly encourage all members to make an annual pledge, no matter how large or small.

To make a pledge today for 2026, use the pledge card found in your pew or go to <https://tinyurl.com/pledgegoodshp2026>.

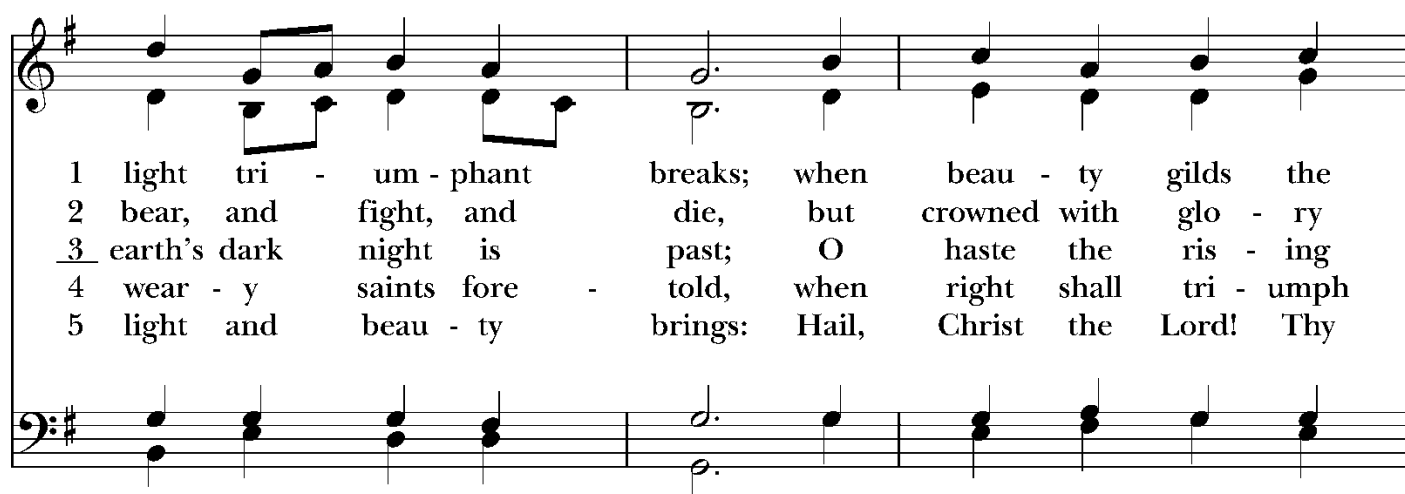


The Annunciation
(Catacomb of Priscilla, Via Salaria, Rome, late 2nd century)

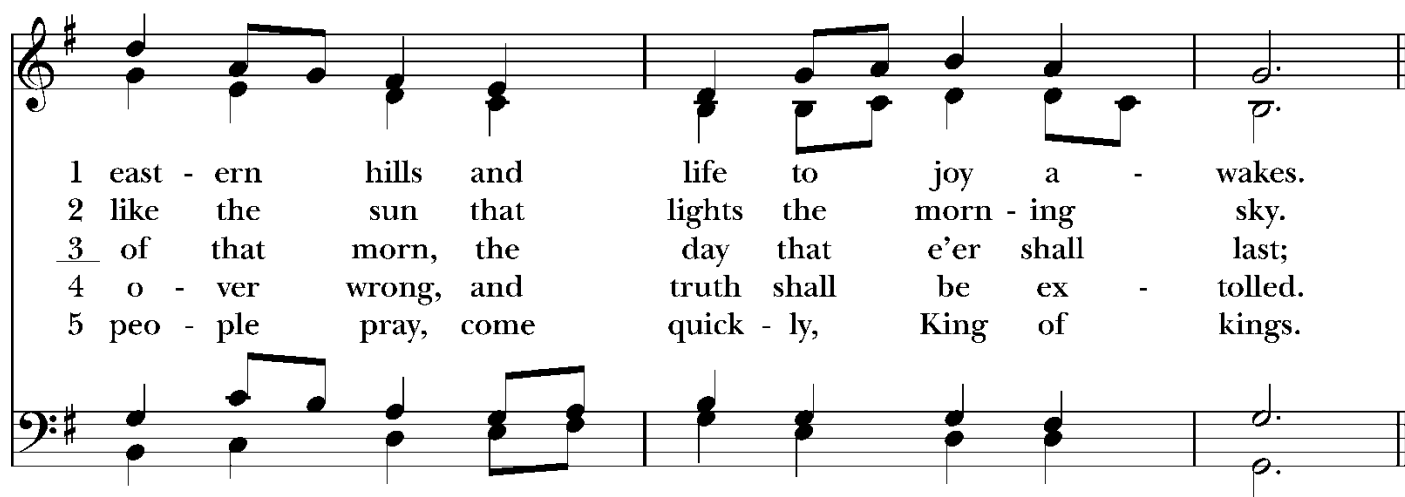
Offertory Music: The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns (*The Hymnal 1982* #73)



1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
 2 Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, to
 3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
 4 and let the end - less bliss be - gin, by
 5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and



1 light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the
 2 bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glo - ry
 3 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing
 4 wear - y saints fore - told, when right shall tri - umph
 5 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy



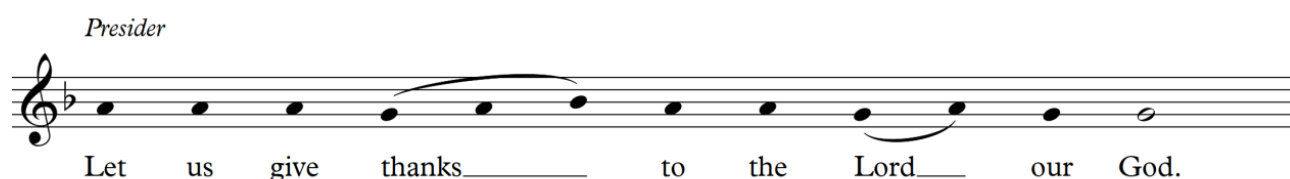
1 east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 2 like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
 3 of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;
 4 o - ver wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled.
 5 peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of kings.

Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie (1859-1925), alt. Music: *St. Stephen*, William Jones (1726-1800), alt.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

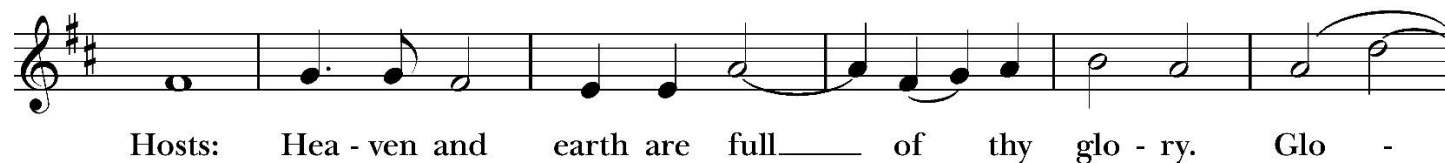
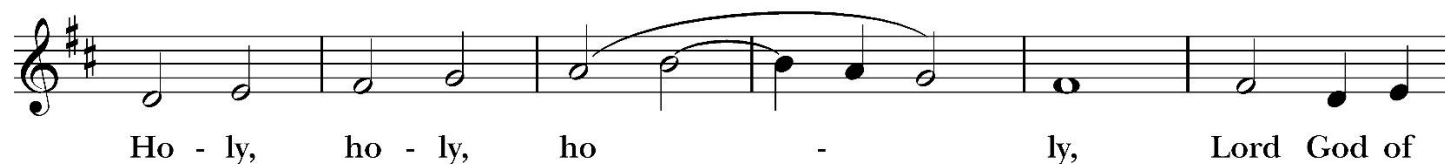
The Great Thanksgiving

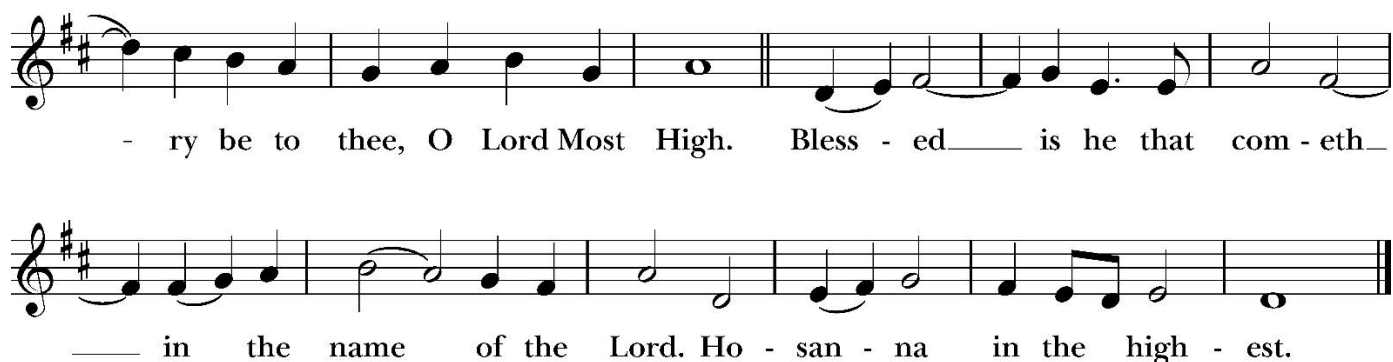
Eucharistic Prayer B *(inclusive language)*



Presider: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth; because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus *(The Hymnal 1982 #S-114)*





Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The people remain standing.

Presider: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All:

**We remember Christ's death,
 We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
 We await Christ's coming in glory;**

Presider: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children;

through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

All: **AMEN.**

Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Silence is kept.

Presider: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

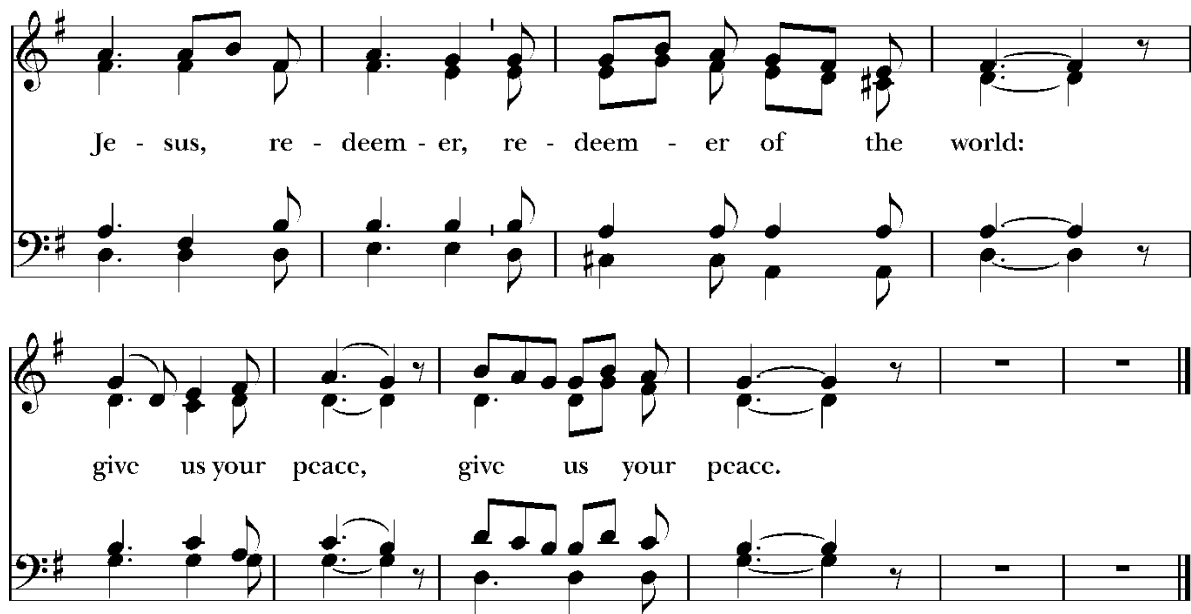
People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

At 10:30:

Fraction Anthem: Agnus Dei (The Hymnal 1982 #S-164)

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.



Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Holy Communion is Christians' weekly participation in the death and resurrection of Christ, so it properly flows from the vows made at our baptism. Even so, all are invited to the table: the baptized of any Christian denomination who have committed to follow Jesus Christ, and any guests at Jesus' table. If you are not baptized and would like to begin to explore the possibility, please reach out to Pastor Josh.

If you require gluten-free bread, tell the priest when he comes to you and it will be provided. To abstain from Holy Communion, cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you would prefer that the priest bless you. In

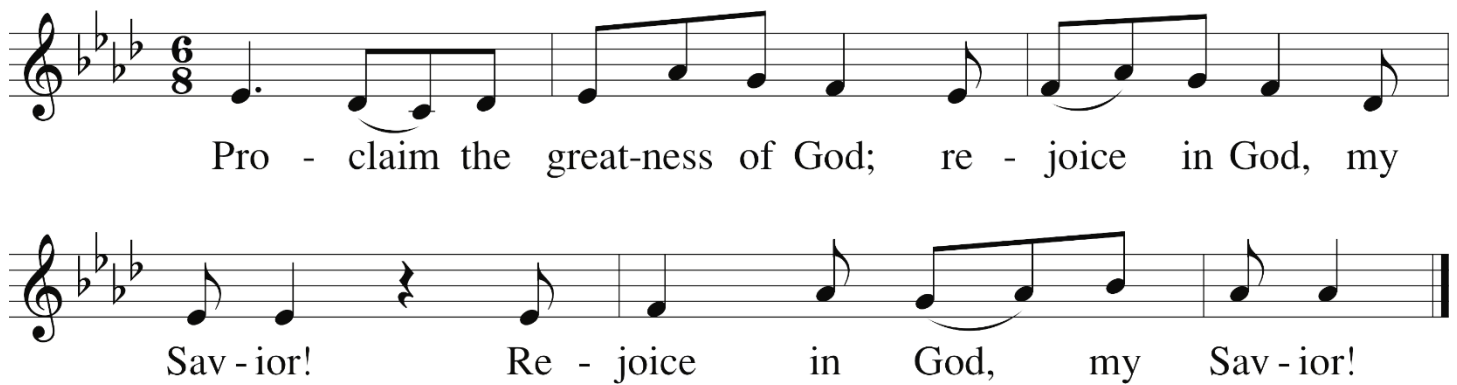


addition, it has always been our understanding that those who receive communion in only one kind (bread or wine) have received communion in the fullest sense.

Patty Wickman, *Overshadowed* (2001)

Communion Hymn: Proclaim the Greatness of God (*Gather* 3rd ed. #101)

Refrain



Verses

1. For he has favored his lowly one, and all shall call me blessed.
The almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
2. He favors those who fear his name, in ev'ry generation.
He has shown the might and strength of his arm,
and scattered the proud of heart.
3. He has cast the mighty from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with all good gifts, and sent the rich away.
4. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering his mercy.
He promised his mercy to Abraham and his children for evermore.

Text: Luke 1:46–55; James J. Chepponis
Music: James J. Chepponis
© 1980, GIA Publications, Inc.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Those who cannot be with us on-site to receive Holy Communion may wish to add this private prayer:

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united with you and with the Body of Christ. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you and to your Church, and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me; may I live and die in your love. Amen.

Sending Out Eucharistic Visitors

If Eucharistic Visitors are to be sent to some who could not attend in person today, this prayer follows at the end of Holy Communion. Please stand as able.

Presider: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People: **We who are many are one body, because we share one bread, one cup.**

Post-Communion Prayer

The congregation stands as able.

Presider: Let us pray.

All: **Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Advent Blessing

Presider: May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: People, Look East (*Wonder, Love, and Praise* #724)



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour-ish, that in course the flow'r may
3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum-ming with the word, the Lord is



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
5. com-ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.



Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965). Music: *Besançon Carol*, harm. John L. Hooker (b. 1944).

The Dismissal

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve Jesus Christ our Savior.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

At this point our livestream ends. Coffee, snacks, and ongoing conversation are available after the 10:30 service in Seaman Hall. You can get there by going down the stairs at the rear of the worship space or by walking around the front of the building down a gently sloping path through the garden.

What's Happening at Good Shepherd?

Because our service leaflet is posted on the Web for all to see, we don't print here parishioners' personal contact information. Members of Good Shepherd are given a printed parish directory. If you'd like to participate in something but don't know how to contact the appropriate person, please contact the church office at office@goodshepherdflw.org.

Announcements & Events

Greening the Church

TODAY after the 10:30 a.m. service

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent we work together to prepare the worship space for the joy of Christmas. All ages are invited to pitch in—and this year we also get to share the work with Emmanuel All Nations Church.

Good Shepherd Office Closed During Christmas Season

December 24 – January 5

Things will be slow around the office. Evan will not be in. Our Finance Team will take care of essential year-end tasks. Pastor Josh will be available to address pastoral emergencies but will otherwise be hanging out with family. Have a very merry Christmas.

Good Shepherd Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 25 after the 10:30 a.m. service in Seaman Hall (on-site only)

Come hear the highlights of Good Shepherd in 2025, vote for new vestry members and Diocesan Convention delegates, and look forward to 2026. All are welcome to attend; all baptized adult members (16+) are urged to vote. This is also where the new year's budget is presented; the rector presents certain folks with the Rector's Pin; and we witness the giving of the much-coveted Praying Hands Award from one parishioner household to another. Come one, come all!



THE WAY

to Baptism, Confirmation,
Reception, or Reaffirmation



EXPLORATION



ENGAGEMENT



COMMITMENT



DISCERNMENT

Becoming a Christian ... or renewing your faith
January – May 2026 *(dates and times TBD by the group that forms)*

Before we were called Christians, we were called followers of “The Way”—a way that led through death to Resurrection, as modeled by Jesus Christ. Followers of The Way were initiated into this new, transformed life through baptism. At Good Shepherd in 2026, we’ll use the term The Way to refer to a process that leads toward baptism or some form of reaffirmation of baptismal vows. Everyone is invited!

Baptism: Why be baptized? It’s what makes you a Christian. You can be a believer before baptism, but being baptized means committing to find your place in the community of Christians all over the world. Perhaps the Holy Spirit is urging you to get wet.

Confirmation: Why be confirmed? Baptism makes you a full member of the faith. But confirmation shows that you recognize for yourself that you are part of the Body of Christ and take responsibility for your own relationship with God. If you have made an adult affirmation of faith in another denomination, you are already considered to be confirmed. In that case, read about ...

Reception: Why be received? To be a member of Good Shepherd, all we need to know is that you’re baptized and want to be considered a member. But perhaps you feel a call to make public your intention to make the Episcopal Church your home base. Some leadership positions also require confirmation or reception as an Episcopalian.

Reaffirmation: Why reaffirm? This option is available for everyone else, including sponsors of those going through other rites. Some people feel a call to reaffirm their baptismal vows, especially when they have been through a big change in life. You can reaffirm your baptismal vows anytime you like and as many times as you like, right alongside those who are undergoing these other rites.

Want to learn more? Contact **Pastor Josh**.



The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

Federal Way, WA · goodshepherdfw.org



VESTRY RESOLUTION #2025-12-D: Intent to Sell the Woods

Resolved: ... that the Vestry, with the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Property Redevelopment Task Force, intend to sell a portion of Good Shepherd's woods, including the 3.7-acre south lot, as soon as is feasible, consistent with the church's mission.

Background: In recent years it has become clear that the congregation does not have the capacity to manage the woods we own. Increased camping, piles of garbage, and drug activity, plus evidence of fires being set, have raised the urgency of this issue.

In 2025 the vestry and rector committed, via mutual ministry goal, to come to a definitive understanding of what needs to happen with the woods. Congregational input, plus the formation of a Property Redevelopment Task Force, have enabled deep investigation of the possibilities.

A Woods Subgroup of the Task Force learned that selectively logging the woods would not be practical. They also learned the high level of maintenance needed to keep the woods healthy—maintenance that we do not have a plan for.

The question of parting with wooded areas beyond the South Lot sits on the plate of the Task Force. This would be an item of negotiation with potential builders. Redrawing the existing property lines and/or rezoning are also possibilities.

At the very least, though, selling the South Lot would likely allow Good Shepherd to invest enough funds to free us from our chronic operating budget deficits, and hopefully also could provide us with ongoing funds for ministry.

The vestry approved this resolution on 12/16/25.

Ministry Opportunities

Saturday Community Meal: Our Saturday Community Supper has several volunteer opportunities. Each week of the month has a different team. We are in need of help with serving, clean-up, and food prep (washing, chopping, and mixing). In addition, we would love to have a substitute coordinator and substitute lead cook. Interested? contact **Aimee Drake, Sherri Jarvey, or Nancy Krueger.**

Eucharistic Ministers & Eucharistic Visitors: These are confirmed Episcopalians who serve the chalice during worship and/or visit those who are unable to be with us on Sunday mornings. Safe Church training is required. Talk to **Pastor Josh.**

Eucharistic Visit “Seconds”: We always send our visitors out two by two, so this role is for literally any adult not related to the Eucharistic Visitor. Pay a visit to someone in need of care and conversation. Learn how these visits work, and consider whether you might someday like to be trained as a Eucharistic Visitor yourself. Talk to **Mary Aronen.**

Tech Team: The crew in the loft maintains Good Shepherd’s online worship connection. At least as many folks join us via YouTube as do on Zoom. This is for folks who are technologically confident, but you don’t need to be any sort of expert. We’re seeking folks to help once a month, and training is available. Talk to **Deb Smith.**

Pastoral Care Team: Important skills include a listening ear, confidentiality, and the willingness to meet and befriend people we don’t see in church very often. Talk to **Carole Loudenback.**

Choir: We’re always looking for new singers to support our worship music. Skilled soloists can become Cantors, and those with less experience are also of great value. Talk to **Alan Lynch.**

Coffee Hour Teams: Provide refreshments on a monthly basis after the 10:30 service. Talk to **Mary Aronen.**

Fellowship Team: This group organizes receptions and potlucks for special events, like the annual parish picnic, and funerals. Talk to **Rick Kincade.**

Children and Youth Revisioning: Let’s gather a group that is dedicated to restoring vital ministry with young people at Good Shepherd. Talk to **Pastor Josh.**