

The Church of the Good Shepherd



4th SUNDAY OF *Advent*

December 21, 2025

We Welcome Our Guests

The Good Shepherd faith community welcomes those who are visitors. Your presence and participation in our worship service is a blessing to us all. All are welcome, whoever you are, just as you are!

At The Church of the Good Shepherd, we do not pass a collection plate during our Services. Please place your pledge payments or donations, in support of the ministries of the church, in the offering boxes located at the entrances of the Church. You may do this either before or after the Service. Thank you for your financial support, which allows the message of God's love and acceptance to shine forth through the ministries and services of our Good Shepherd community.

Good Shepherd's Sunday School

Sunday School is held during the first half of our 10am Sunday Service, on the first and third Sunday of the month. All Sunday School volunteers have undergone CORI background checks and received training, including the Safe Church training required by the Episcopal Church for all those who work with children.

Good Shepherd's Sunday Nursery

Children of all ages are always welcome at our Sunday Services. Good Shepherd operates a nursery on Sunday from 9:50 –11:10am for infants and children through kindergarten (age 5-6) for those who wish to use it. The nursery is staffed by two adults who have completed Safe Church Training and a CORI background check. ***The Sunday Nursery will be closed on December 21 & 28, due to the Christmas holiday.***

For more information about our Good Shepherd Community please go to our website at www.goodshepherdwareham.org or scan the QR Code here.



Again, thank you for blessing us with your presence and participation this morning!

ASSISTING MINISTERS			
December 21, 2025		December 28, 2025	
8AM	10AM	8AM	10AM
<u>READERS:</u> JANET DRUM	<u>READERS:</u> JO-ANN RINN CECILY KOST	<u>READERS:</u> KAREN CLARK	<u>READERS:</u> RICHELLES JEANNYMAN
<u>HOSPITALITY MINISTER:</u> KAREN CLARK	<u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u> CHUCK & DONNA TOLLEY	<u>HOSPITALITY MINISTER:</u> RICH SOUZA	<u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u> JUDY GOVON & RICH BALANCA
<u>EUCARISTIC MINISTER:</u> NATECIA ALFOSNO	<u>EUCARISTIC MINISTER:</u> RICHELLES <u>NURSERY MINISTERS:</u> NO NURSERY <u>COFFEE HOUR HOST(S):</u> GOOD AND GREENTEAM	<u>EUCARISTIC MINISTER:</u> MICHELLE MURRAY	<u>EUCARISTIC MINISTER:</u> DALE WINTERS <u>NURSERY MINISTERS:</u> NO NURSERY <u>COFFEE HOUR HOST(S):</u> JAN BARTON



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Gathering Song
(10am Service)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
(please stand as you are able)

(see page 9)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Opening Acclamation

Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

The Service Introduction

The Confession

People:

Most merciful God,
we confess of the ways we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.

For the times we have not loved you with our whole heart;
and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

Have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Absolution

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

The Opening Prayer

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Together, let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

**With your abundant grace and might,
free us from all that hinders our faith,
that eagerly we may receive your promises,
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(please be seated)

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

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."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Reader: Let us recite Psalm 80 responsively by half verse

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *

shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

² In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *

stir up your strength and come to help us.

³ Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

⁴ O LORD God of hosts, *

how long will you be angered

despite the prayers of your people?

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears; *

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

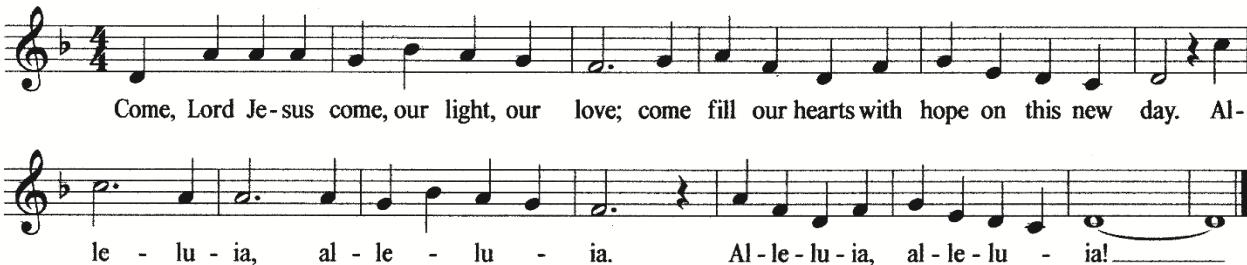
Gospel Acclamation:

“Alleluia”

One License #A-711854

(10AM Service)

(please stand as you are able)



Come, Lord Je-sus come, our light, our love; come fill our hearts with hope on this new day. Al-
le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Music: VENI EMMANUEL, Ancient plainsong 13th cent.

Text: adapt. from Daniel Charles Damon, ©2000

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord 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 Gospel Acclamation (10AM Service)

Repeat Gospel Acclamation Refrain once (page 3)

The Message (please be seated)

The Prayers of the People (please stand as you are able)

Leader: God in your love for us.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

Let us take a moment to turn and share a sign of peace with those around us. If you do not wish to shake hands, simply fold your hands in front of you and say, "Peace be with you." We will then pray together the Prayer of St. Francis.

The Prayer of St. Francis

Presider and People:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is discord, union;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

**Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

The Announcements *(please be seated)*

Our Sunday Offerings:

At The Church of the Good Shepherd, we do not pass a collection plate during our Sunday Services. You may place your pledge payment or donation, in support of the ministries of the church, in the offering boxes located at the entrances of the Church. You may do this either before or after the Service. There are offering envelopes in the book racks at the center of each pew, if you prefer to use an envelope. Thank you for your financial support, which allows the message of God's love and acceptance to shine forth through the ministries and services of our Good Shepherd community.



THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

(please stand as you are able)

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The Presider continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.

The Words of Praise

Presider and People:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Presider continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.

The Memorial Acclamation

Presider & People:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Presider and People:

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider: We who break this bread, share in the Body of Christ.

People: **We who are many are one body in Christ.**

Communion

All are invited to receive communion, no exceptions. Please come to the front of the church as directed by the hospitality minister. To receive the communion bread, please extend your hands, one on top of the other, with your palms up. To receive from the communion cup you may dip the communion wafer into the wine in the cup or take the cup into your hands and drink from it. The response to receiving communion is "Amen". If you need to have communion brought to you, please inform the hospitality minister. Gluten free wafers are available. If you would like a gluten free wafer, please inform the priest when you come up for communion.

(please be seated after receiving communion)

Communion Anthem:
(10AM Service)

"My Heart, Your Home"

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The Prayer after Communion (please stand as you are able)

Presider: Together let us pray.

Presider and People:

God of unbounded love and compassion,
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
May this time of worship transform our hearts,
as we go forth to proclaim in word and deed
your message of love;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Dismissal

People's Response: **Thanks be to God.**

The Concluding Song:
(10AM Service)

"Emmanuel"

(see page 8)

Refrain



Come, come, Em - man - u - el! Son of God, ap - pear. Heav - en and



earth, re - joice! Sal - va - tion is draw - ing near.

Verses



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,
____ That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
2. O come, O Wis - dom from on high,
____ To us the path of knowl - edge show,
3. O come, O Rod of Jes - se's stem;
____ That trust your might - y pow'r to save,
4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind
____ Make all our sad di - vi - sions cease,

(to Refrain)



1. And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
____ Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2. Who or - dered all things might - i - ly;
____ And teach us in her ways to go.
3. From ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them
____ And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
4. In one the hearts of hu - man - kind;
____ And be for us the King of Peace.

Verses

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And
 2. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who
 3. O come, Thou Day - spring from on high And
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In

1. ran - som cap - tive Is ra - el, That mourns in
 2. or - d'rest all things might - i - ly; To us the
 3. cheer us by thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the
 4. one the hearts of all hu - man - kind; Bid thou our

1. lone - ly ex - ile here Un - til the Son of
 2. path of knowl - edge show, And teach us in her
 3. gloom - y clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ow
 4. sad di - vi - sions cease, And be thy - self our

Refrain

1. God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -
 2. ways to go.
 3. put to flight.
 4. Prince of Peace.

el Shall come to thee, O Is ra - el!

Text: LM with refrain; Latin, 9th cent.; verses 1, 3-6, para. in *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Cologne, 1710; tr. by John Mason Neale, 1818-1866; verses 2, 7 tr. fr. *The Hymnal 1940*, alt.

Music: *Processionale*, 15th cent. French; adapt. by Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890; Chant, Mode I.



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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go to the funeral.

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will be glad they did.

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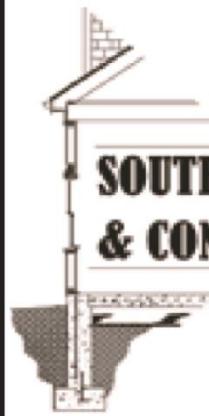
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"Tell 'em Deacon Hilary sent you"



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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