

Welcome to  
The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 4, 2022

8:00 AM, THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

# Welcome to the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd!

## COVID-19 Precautions

Masks are now optional. Please be considerate of those who choose to wear masks and observe social distancing. Thank you.

## Visitors

Welcome! We're glad to have you worship with us. If you'd like to learn more about this community of faith and our different ministries, fill out one of our visitor cards (in the pews) and hand it to an usher.

## Restrooms

Exit through the courtyard. A family restroom is available to your right in the Worsham Hall building as soon as you go through the glass door.

Ask an usher if you need any assistance.

## Stay Connected

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram.

Our Facebook page is "The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd - Jacksonville, Florida" and we're on Instagram as "goodshepherdjaxchurch."

Our website is [gsjax.church](http://gsjax.church).

Sign up for "This Week at Good Shepherd," our weekly e-newsletter, by using the QR code on the right or by emailing [welcome@gsjax.church](mailto:welcome@gsjax.church).



## THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Celebrant* Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

*People* **For behold, darkness covers the land, and deep gloom enshrouds the people.**

*Celebrant* But over you the Lord will rise, and his glory will appear upon you.

*People* **Nations will stream to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawning.**

*Celebrant* The Lord will be your everlasting light,

*People* **and your God will be your glory.**

*Celebrant* O God, by whose Word all things are sanctified and who gave light to all creation: Grant that this wreath and the light that comes from its candles may serve as a reminder to us of our need to prepare ourselves in heart and mind for the coming of Christ, and that by his indwelling presence our lives might be transformed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Celebrant*

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

## GLORIA

*Celebrant and People*

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant*

The Lord be with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant*

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**FIRST LESSON:** Isaiah 11:1-10

*Reader:* A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

*Celebrant and the People read the psalm by half verse.*

- <sup>1</sup> Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
**and your righteousness to the King's Son;**
- <sup>2</sup> That he may rule your people righteously \*  
**and the poor with justice;**
- <sup>3</sup> That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
**and the little hills bring righteousness.**
- <sup>4</sup> He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
**he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**
- <sup>5</sup> He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
**from one generation to another.**
- <sup>6</sup> He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
**like showers that water the earth.**
- <sup>7</sup> In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
**there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**
- <sup>18</sup> Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, \*  
**who alone does wondrous deeds!**
- <sup>19</sup> And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*  
**and may all the earth be filled with his glory.**  
**Amen. Amen.**

## THE EPISTLE: Romans 15:4-13

*Reader: A reading from Romans.*

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Reader*    The Word of the Lord.

*People*    **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

**THE GOSPEL:** Matthew 3:1-12

*Gospeler*        The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I

tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

*Gospeler*    The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

The Rev. Elyse Gustafson

*Please stand.*

## **THE NICENE CREED**

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**

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Michael Curry, John Howard, our priests Brent Owens and Elyse Gustafson, and our postulant Teri Calinao, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially our president, Joe Biden; our governor, Ron DeSantis; and our mayor, Lenny Curry, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor, especially for Barbara, Donnie, Rich, Carter, Linda, Jessie, Peggy, Susan, Penelope, Virgil, Jo, Doug, Richard, Richard, Diane, Jamie, Elizabeth, Skye, Missy, Peter, Brandon, Yevgeniya, Julie, Polly, Lawrence, Ashton, Jennifer, Brian, Nancy, John, Constantine, Gail, E. G., Dorothy, Ingo, Shirley, and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Celebrant*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto almighty God.

*Celebrant and People*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

## **ABSOLUTION**

*Celebrant*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

*People*                    The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
                                  **And also with you.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II**

*The people stand.*

*Celebrant*    The Lord be with you.

*People*        **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People* **It is meet and right so to do.**

*The Celebrant continues*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst send thy 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 with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

*Celebrant and People*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:**

**Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.**

**Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.**

**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people kneel or stand. Then the Celebrant continues*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

**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

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. **Amen.**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Please let the priest know if you desire a gluten free wafer. If you would prefer to receive a blessing rather than communion, please cross your arms over your chest as an indication to the priest.*

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People and Celebrant*

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and

that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING**

*A blessing is offered and the people respond **Amen.***

## **THE DISMISSAL**

*Celebrant*            Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People*                **Thanks be to God.**

*Altar flowers are given by Jonathan Crews & Chris Mitchell  
to the Glory of God and in heartfelt thanks for the friendship and ministry  
of the Reverend Elyse Gustafson.*

## Special Prayers

We pray for peace throughout the world, especially for peace in Ukraine.

We pray for our companion dioceses of Cuba and Peru, and especially for our companion parish, The Church of the Annunciation in Florida, Cuba.

We pray for those in our diocese, especially for: St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Jacksonville; Trinity Parish Episcopal Church, Saint Augustine; St. Teresa Prison Ministry at Wakulla Correctional Institution; St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, Jacksonville Beach; St. Mary's Mission Episcopal Church, Jacksonville; St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Jacksonville; St. Christopher's Episcopal Mission, Flagler Beach.

We pray for those in need of healing, strength or guidance, especially for: Barbara and Donnie Pearce, Rich Batsavage, Carter, Linda Kendrick, Jessie, Peggy Croom, Susan Croom, Penelope Nasrallah, Virgil, Jo, Doug Walkinshaw, Richard, Richard, Diane, Jamie, Elizabeth, Skye Carroll, Missy L., Peter Flood, Brandon Centerwall, Yevgeniya, Julie Beasley, Polly, Lawrence, Jennifer Keen, Nancy, John, Constantine, Gail Dunn, E. G. Newsom, Dorothy, Ingo, Shirley Walters, and our postulant Teri Calinao and husband George.

We pray for those affected by COVID-19, and for those who have died from the virus.

We pray for those who have died.  
May their souls, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

We pray for all who are serving in our Armed Forces and Intelligence Services, both at home and abroad, especially for: Ashton Moulder, Zachary, Brooker, Caleb, Charlie, Erik, Bradley Williams, Thomas Crouch, Jonathan Ubl, Channing Mattix, Warren Butler.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays this week, especially for

Harry Benton-Rzeznik	December 4
Samuel Benton-Rzeznik	December 4
Griffin Lasch	December 5
Jennifer Keen	December 5
Steve Gillick	December 7



Ted Centerwall	December 8
Ann Johnson	December 8
William Thomson	December 8

**We give thanks for those celebrating anniversaries, especially for**

Alla and Ted Centerwall	December 5
Eric and Kassie Weatherly	December 10

*Let us know if there is someone who could be blessed by receiving flowers from the altar  
or if you would like to add a name to our prayer list.  
[welcome@gsjax.church](mailto:welcome@gsjax.church)*

***Our prayer list was last updated on December 1, 2022.***

# Announcements

## Pledge Reminder

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, comes from God. When we are generous with our resources for God's work, God promises to "open the windows of heaven" and pour out blessings upon us (Malachi 3:10). And Paul tells us that when we are rooted in faith, our gratitude grows (Col. 2:6-7)!

If you have not yet had the opportunity to turn in your pledge of work, wisdom, and wealth, we ask that you do so. It is upon your faithfulness and generosity that we depend to plan on our ministry in 2023. Pledge cards are available in the back of the church (narthex). You can place your pledge in the offering plate or turn it in at the Parish Office. Many thanks to each of you!!

## First Coast Pops Concert Tonight, December 4 at 5:00 pm

Come back for a concert tonight! December 4 at 5:00 pm, the First Coast Pops Orchestra will perform a holiday concert. This concert is free and open to the public.

## Aids Memorial Quilt

World AIDS Day is December 1st. The idea for The Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt began in 1985 in San Francisco by Cleve Jones to raise awareness of how massive the AIDS pandemic really was and to bring support and healing to those affected by it. Additional goals were to raise funds for local AIDS service organizations and to increase funding for AIDS prevention and education.

Many lives had been lost in just a few years and so often the families of those lost had turned their backs on their children and services were never held.

The Quilt became a reality in 1987 as a Memorial to Celebration of the lives of people lost to the AIDS Pandemic. The 1<sup>st</sup> display of the Quilt was at The National Mall in Washington DC in October 1987.

Each quilt panel is 3'x6'. They are sewn together in blocks of 8 onto a canvas backing.

Jacksonville 1<sup>st</sup> saw the Quilt in 1998 at the Convention Center, thanks to the determination and hard work of Evelyn Nehl, along with some of her friends, to bring awareness to Jacksonville. The local chapter of The Names Project was also started in 1998 by Jeremy Lucas.

Quilt panels are usually displayed at City Hall every year in December along with a ceremony as well as being displayed at many churches, medical facilities, and educational facilities.

Many fundraisers are held throughout the years by individuals, local businesses, and entertainers. The help of many local volunteers who help transport and display The Quilt along with the fundraisers and support of those who allow us to display and those who come to see it make all this possible. We thank you all!

### **Sunday School and Youth Group: Brief Winter Pause**

Sunday School and Youth Group will both take a break this winter. They will meet one last time in 2022 on December 18. Your children can join them again on January 8, 2023.

*A staffed nursery will be available during the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service.*

### **Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage on Thursday, December 8**

The Jacksonville Historical Society will present “Jacksonville’s Architectural Heritage,” a presentation by Wayne W. Wood about his new Bicentennial edition of the popular book, on Thursday, December 8, in Betsy Lovett Hall. The presentation will begin at 6:45 pm. If books are delivered in time, Dr. Wood will hold a book signing 6-6:45 and 7:30-8 pm. **If the books are not delivered on time, the event will not be held.**

Please RSVP by December 6 to [communications@jaxhistory.org](mailto:communications@jaxhistory.org)

## **Hospitality Ministry Notes**

The next potluck will be on **December 11** and every second Sunday after.

The Hospitality Committee is continuing its purge of surplus items. Please help yourself to anything you can use.

We are also offering a gift wrap service. Bring in your holiday presents and we'll wrap them with either your gift wrap or select from ours. Volunteers are wanted to help out in this project.

A donation to the Hospitality Committee is requested but not required for both initiatives.

### **Altar Flowers for 2023**

The flower chart for 2023 is in the narthex (back part of the sanctuary). You can sign up there if you wish to donate altar flowers. Altar flowers are \$75. Please indicate "altar flowers" in the memo line if you pay by check or in the drop-down menu if you pay through Realm.

Please send an email to Gina at [golson@gsjax.church](mailto:golson@gsjax.church) with your dedication, so it can be included in the bulletin when your flowers are on the altar. Dedications are often in honor of, thanksgiving of, or in memory of.

### **St. Catherine's Rosa Lee Brannan Food Pantry**

We continue to collect food donations for the Rosa Lee Brannan Food Pantry at St. Catherine's Episcopal. Donations can be brought to church on Sundays or dropped off at the Parish Office during the week. Your donations have been greatly appreciated!

### **Christmas Flowers and Music Donations**

If you would like to make a donation to our Christmas music and flower funds in thanksgiving or memory of a loved one, envelopes are available in the pew racks.

Please turn in envelopes by **Friday, December 16** if you would like the dedication to appear in the Christmas bulletins.

### **Shepherd's Tree: Christmas Gifts for West Riverside Elementary**

Our Shepherd's Tree Ministry needs your participation. We just received 100 names of students from West Riverside Elementary who need presents. This year we have a tight timeline as the presents will be carried to West Riverside on Monday, December 12. That leaves only 15 days from this Sunday, November 27, to pick up your gift tag(s), shop, wrap, and return the gifts to Good Shepherd by **Sunday, December 11**.

Each gift tag includes a child's initials, age, grade level, and gift suggestion. Please remember to pick up the tags this Sunday or next Sunday from the Shepherd's Tree. **Be sure to attach the gift tag securely to the present so that we can make sure each child gets their intended present.** If you are not able to shop but want to sponsor a child's present, you can make out a check to Good Shepherd with "Shepherd's Tree" in the memo line or donate on Realm where the fund is called "Angel Tree." Heartfelt thanks to each of you for making this ministry work.

**Please leave gifts at the Parish Office.**

### **EWES Lunch on Tuesday, December 6 at 11:30 am**

EWES ("Eating With Episcopalians Socially") is a flock of Good Shepherd women who meet for lunch at 11:30 am on the first Tuesday of the month. No invitation is needed and no reservation is required. It's just a pleasant gathering with no agenda. Bring your lunch and join them in the courtyard.

### **Book & Bible Study on Wednesdays at Noon**

What are you doing on Wednesday? Join the noon study in Craig Lounge. We're reading Adam Hamilton's *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*. This study will meet on December 7 and 14. Join us!

## **Join the Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study for the Gospel of Matthew!**

Our Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study meets at 7:00 am in Betsy Lovett Hall. We are currently studying N.T. Wright's *Matthew for Everyone* (available on Amazon). Join us for some great discussions!

## **Douglas Anderson Choral Concert on December 15**

Mark your calendars! On Thursday, December 15 at 7:30 pm, the choirs of Douglas Anderson will have their holiday choral concert. Ticketing for the choral concert is handled by Douglas Anderson, and we will share more details as soon as they are available.

## **Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, December 18**

Plan to stay after the service on Sunday, December 18 to help with the hanging of the greens. This will be a time of fellowship and festivity.

**Check the "Weekly Calendar" at the back of the bulletin and our online calendar for more upcoming services and events!**

# The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Florida

The Right Reverend Samuel Johnson Howard, Bishop

## Contact Us

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Tameka Brown, *Bookkeeper*  
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## The Vestry

Julie Davis, *Sr. Warden*  
Lucie Sweda, *Clerk*

Anne Graham, *Jr. Warden*

Matt Wolfe, *Chancellor*  
Paul Arrington, *Treasurer*

Homer Bliss  
Keith Sands  
Anne Graham

Ted Centerwall  
Denise Gilbreath  
Matt Wolfe

John Zell  
Juan Vegega  
Julie Davis

Contact our Senior Warden at [swarden@gsjax.church](mailto:swarden@gsjax.church).

Contact our Junior Warden at [jrwarden@gsjax.church](mailto:jrwarden@gsjax.church).

## Weekly Calendar

### Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

11:30 am EWES Lunch in the courtyard

### Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

7:00 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study in Betsy Lovett Hall

12:00 pm Wednesday Study of *The Journey* in Craig Lounge

7:00 pm Compline on YouTube

### Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

*The Third Sunday of Advent*

8:00 am The Holy Eucharist, Rite I in the Chapel

9:00 am Bible Study in Craig Lounge (and by Zoom)

9:00 am Good Shepherd 101 in the Fant Library

10:00 am The Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Church and on YouTube

Nursery and Sunday School in the ECS Classrooms

Potluck follows the 10:00 am service in Betsy Lovett Hall.

Youth Group follows the 10:00 am service in the Youth Room.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

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Jacksonville, Florida 32204

Parish office: (904) 387-5691

Email: [welcome@gsjax.church](mailto:welcome@gsjax.church)

Church website: [www.gsjax.church](http://www.gsjax.church)

Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9 am - 4 pm; Fri. 9 am- Noon

Pool office: (904) 387- 4298

Pool website: [www.gsjaxpool.com](http://www.gsjaxpool.com)