

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

God, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills and our works, a continual thank offering to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING IN GOD'S LOVE

*Closing Hymn #113

Angels We Have Heard on High

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Jeremy Kurn & Phoebe Bawmann



*The Visitation, Unknown
Cypriot Artist, 14th Century*

Please join us after worship for coffee and snacks.

Good Shepherd Staff
Interim Pastor: Rev. Sheri Fry
revmo25@gmail.com
Office Admin: Teddie McConnell
GSPCoffice10785@gmail.com

Choir Director: Sara Love
Accompanist: Jeremy Kurn
Audio/Visual Tech: Astin Lopez
Liturgist: Carol Topp
www.thegoodshepherd.org

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*A Service for the Lord's Day
December 19, 2021 ~ 10:00 am
4th Sunday in Advent*

10785 Melody Drive, Northglenn, CO 80234 ~ 303-452-5478

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

As the music begins, we invite you to use this time to make the transition from getting here to being here. Take these few minutes to silently prepare for worship and allow the Spirit to refresh you.

Prayer of the Day

God of love come forth for us and may our lives magnify you. Surprise us, shower favor on all your people. Have mercy on the needy today, each day, always. Heal the broken and use us to be your hands and heart. Bless our lives that we can be a sign of your heart and your hope. God of love startle us with new life. Savior God come forth for us and may our lives magnify you. Amen.

Gathering Music

Jeremy Kurn

Welcome

Rev. Sheri Fry

Introit

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child
Arr. David Angerman

The Bell Choir

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle - Love Teddie McConnell & David Wolters

One: With hope, we have waited for the birth of the Christ-child;

All: We wait for Christ to be born in us today.

One: With peace, we pray for the world, we pray for our communities;

All: The Prince of Peace reigns in our hearts.

One: With Joy, we expectantly prepare for the Good news of the Messiah;

All: Joyfully we celebrate that Christ is coming again.

One: With love, we give selflessly, knowing God has given us the most wonderful gift;

All: God's love is in us, through the gift of Jesus the Christ. May Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love shine forth from us to the world, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Parts of the service in bold are for everyone to speak in unison.
Parts with an asterisk * mean that all are to stand in body or in spirit.

*Opening Hymn #121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

Loving God, we sing your praises for your love endures forever. We confess that often we have failed you in this commission. At times, we have questioned this call, saying "How can this be?" Other times, we have failed to offer love out of fear of rejection of self-involvement. Send your Holy Spirit upon us. Strengthen us and show us where revealing your love can bring new life. Amen



*Assurance of God's Love

Rev. Sheri Fry

*Response of Praise #92

While We Are Waiting, Come (verse 1)

LISTENING FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, and the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days. Amen

First Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

Carol Topp

One: Listen to the voice of the Spirit speaking to the church.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Christmas Lullaby
By Jason Robert Brown

Phoebe Bawmann

Second Lesson

Luke 1:39-45

Rev. Sheri Fry

Sermon

Divine Dance

Rev. Sheri Fry

Moment of Silent Reflection

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Affirmation of Faith

We are an Advent people, a people of hope. For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait. We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God's promise, the fulfillment of hope, the declaration that we have been redeemed. We know the world in which we live will continue to be filled with pain, sorrow, hatred and violence. But because we are Advent people, we know that the Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, and ever will be. And in our waiting and hoping, we work, worship, pray and play, in all thing hoping that peace, love and joy will reign in our lives and in our world, now and always. Amen.

Call to Prayer

Away in a Manger

The Bell Choir

by James Murray, Arranged by Bob Burroughs

Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (unison)

Rev. Sheri Fry

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 debts as we forgive our debtors, 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 #98

To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

Offering of our Gifts and Ourselves

Offertory

What Child is This?

The Bell Choir

Traditional English Melody Arranged by Dean McIntyre

*Response of Praise #88 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verse 7)*

O Come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

SERMON MUSINGS

Luke 1:39-45

"It's no use saying that we are born two thousand years too late to give room to Christ. Nor will those who live at the end of the world have been born too late. Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts. But now it's with the voice of our contemporaries that he speaks, with the eyes of store clerks, factory workers, and children that he gazes; with the hands of office workers, slum dwellers, and suburban housewives that he gives. It's with the feet of soldiers and tramps that he walks, and with the heart of anyone in need that he longs for shelter. And giving shelter for food to anyone who asks for it, or needs it, is giving it to Christ.

"If Mary had appeared in Bethlehem clothed, as St. John says, with the sun, a crown of twelve stars on her head, and the moon under her feet, then people would have fought to make room for her. But that was not God's way for her, nor is it Christ's way for himself, now when he is disguised under every type of humanity that treads the earth."

~Dorothy Day, 1897 - 1980



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Bell Choir:
Fred Finke
Maria Forlenza
Rev. Sheri Fry
Jeremy Kurn
Joyce Matthews
Marsha Morton
Becky Musgrove



GoodStuff@GoodShepherd



Opportunities This Week

Monday - Men's Shed 10 am - noon
Advent Book Study 12:00 pm
No Bell Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday - No ESL Class

Wednesday - No Rehearsal

Thursday - No ESL Class

Friday - Christmas Eve Service 4:30 pm

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH ~ DECEMBER 25th at 1 pm
HOSTED BY SUE AND STEVE VANDERBURG**

This is a POTLUCK...sort of... The following items will be provided:
Turkey with gravy, Ham, Drinks, Plates, Plasticware and Napkins
What YOU need to Bring: A side dish that will serve 6-8 people...you know...things like: Potato dishes, hot vegetables, Cold vegetables/Salad, Dessert. A Serving Utensil for your dish (labeled with your name, please). Please email or call the church office at GSPCOffice10785@gmail.com or 303-452-5478 to RSVP.



The Alternative Christmas Market is intended to be a replacement or an alternative for money that you already plan to spend on a gift for someone special. This alternative gift will benefit someone more in need and be given in honor of your friend or family member. Most people will be very happy to have you make a donation in their honor! The three different options this year are:

1. Donate toward a campership to help a child attend an in-person summer camp at **Highlands Camp**. This is a 75-year-old Presbyterian camp near Allenspark. Camps are expensive and many families are unable to cover the full cost.
2. Donate to the **Zimbabwe Mission Partnership** to cover school fees for one or more children, to purchase medical supplies for the Clinic, to cover the cost of a doctor's time at the Clinic for one or more days, or to be used where most needed.
3. Make a donation through the **Presbyterian Giving Catalog**. There will be copies of the catalog in the Narthex during the month of December, suggesting different options.

Information about all these possibilities will be available in the Narthex during December. Please stop by the table and take a look at the ways in which you can help one or more really needy people while still remembering your loved ones!



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Please see the insert for details about this important annual offering which supports both current and retired church workers and Presbyterian-related schools and their students, giving needed funds for leaders of the past, present and future. So far we've raised \$752.

Your Church at Work

FOOD BANK

Tuesday through Thursday 10:00 am - 11:45 am Third Saturday of the month 9 am - 12 pm

Needs donations of toilet paper and dry pet food for dogs and cats.



The Food Bank would like to have a few backpacks (new or gently used) for our homeless clients. See Becky Van Dyke.

Joys and Concerns

Please pray for those dealing with health issues: for Marion H.; Jim M.; Bill; Jane; Haylee; Gil; and Maxine; for all those grieving the loss of loved ones: for Jean Cook's family; Burton Kugler's family; the McCarron family; and Sue C.'s family; and for communities affected by COVID-19 or by human rights violations here in the United States and throughout the world; and for our church, that it may thrive as it brings the good news to our area.



Marion Hubner has moved to Lifecare Center of Aurora. She doesn't have a phone, but can be reached by calling the center at 303-751-2000.

Pee Wee Holland has a new address: 29 State Hwy 52 Lot 31, Longmont, CO 80504

Fearless Generosity



Thank you for your generous contributions to Good Shepherd in 2021. Thank you for your stewardship commitment of not only your treasure, but your time in prayer, mission and attending worship...both in person and online!

Year to date through November 5th, our income is **\$149,450**

Our expenses are **\$175,845**

Our shortfall year to date is **\$26,395**

Since only a few people requested giving envelopes, we did not order 2022 pledge envelopes. Please use the pew envelopes instead.