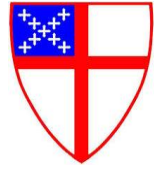


Good Shepherd Episcopal Church



The Village of Pine Grove, Virginia



The Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

Welcome to Good Shepherd Church



CALENDAR

SUN Dec 14 The Third Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with The Rev. Cathy Tibbetts

MON Dec 15 Advent book study, 7 p.m. via Zoom (see Notices)

SUN Dec 21 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer with Josette Keelor

Acolyte: Bethany Whitehouse | Music Leader: Tim Hall

Lay Readers: Bethany & Rick Whitehouse

Zoomer: Ron Edwards

12:15 p.m. Secret Santa Gift Exchange, Fun! (see Notices)

WED Dec 24 Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with The Rev. Deborah Rutter

Lay Readers: Christine Kestner & Ron Edwards

LEM/Prayers: Kelly Macoy

Music Leader: Janet Locklear

Zoomer: Judy Hall

SUN Dec 28 The First Sunday of Christmas

Last Sunday for FISH donations

11:00 a.m. Christmas Lessons & Carols

with The Rev. Martha Clark

Lay Readers: Many Volunteers

LEM/Prayers: TBD | Zoomer: Penni Tidwell

Music Leader: Janet Locklear



The Pine Grove AA meets at Good Shepherd every Saturday at

8:30 p.m. in person or by Zoom. Drop in or contact:

<https://aavirginia.org/meetings> - search for Bluemont.



A small group of five women is holding Al-Anon meetings at

Good Shepherd every Tuesday from noon to 2 p.m. in the Parish

Hall. Ladies, please feel free to join them.

We do not pass the plate to collect the offering. You may **leave your gifts in the offering plate on the table in the Narthex.**

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO

Celebrant: The Rev. Cathy Tibbetts

Lay Readers: Kelly Macoy & Lee Ruddle

LEM/Prayers: Tim Hall | Music Leader: Janet Locklear

Zoomer: Rick Whitehouse

Welcome and Introduction

Prelude “As with Gladness/Let all Mortal Flesh keep silence”

arr. Christine Sullivan Robbins

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

A reading from the “Lighting the Advent Candles” insert.

Candle lighting **Hymn 56** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” *vv. 5, 6*

The third candle is lit.

Then the congregation prays together

Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of HOPE. Teach us the PEACE that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of JOY that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ.

Opening **Hymn 72** “Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes”

The Word of God

BCP p. 355

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

The Celebrant prays

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.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The Reader introduces the first lesson, saying

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The Old Testament: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools,
shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Song of Mary

Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

**the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his
Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him *

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *

to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Reader introduces the second lesson, saying

A reading from the letter of James.

The New Testament: James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual **Hymn 76** “On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry”

vv 1-3

The People stand

Then, the Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

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

The Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.** (*Please be seated*)

The Sermon

The Rev. Cathy Tibbets

The Nicene Creed.

BCP p. 358

The People stand

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: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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, Form VI

BCP p. 392

The People may be seated or kneel

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For our friends and family: (*see back page of bulletin*). For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For the homeless nearby and across our nation. For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For those suffering from climate change and natural disasters. For migrants and refugees and all who are exploited. For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all people suffering from conflicts throughout the world. May they find a way to peace. For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

In the *Diocesan Cycle of Prayer*, we pray today for Santa Maria, Falls Church; St. Barnabas, Annandale; and Westover, Charles City. In the *Anglican Cycle of Prayer*, we pray today for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil. For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Stephen, Acting Archbishop of Canterbury; for Sarah, Archbishop-designate, for Sean, Presiding Bishop; for Mark, Gayle and Mark our Bishops; for Debbie, Martha, and Cathy, our Supply Clergy, and for all bishops and other ministers.

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, especially Brian Allie, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

The Leader continues

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Leader and People

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.

The Celebrant pronounces the absolution.

The Peace (*the People stand*)

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

THE HOLY AND SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The Offertory

The Celebrant begins the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture.

Offertory **Anthem** “Again We Find Our Way” *Arr. Thomas Keesecker*
sung by choir

The People stand for the Doxology

Hymn 380 v.3 “Praise God from whom all blessings flow”

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer A* *BCP, p.361*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father almighty, 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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

WLP-858

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. Hosanna in the highest.

The People stand or kneel

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord 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 he 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 364

People and Celebrant

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

Agnus Dei

Hymnal S-164 (Sung in unison)

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

An Invitation to a Spiritual Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that can be prayed at any time to express a desire to receive Holy Communion when circumstances prevent a person from actually receiving Holy Communion.

The Act of Reception

*The Celebrant invites the following prayer to be said by all **virtual** participants.*

Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament.

And, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

The Celebrant says the following

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.

The ministers and people receive the Sacrament in both kinds.

Communion **Hymn 60** “Creator of the stars of night”

After communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

from Enriching Our Worship (p. 69)

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing **Hymn 438** “Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord”

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**



NOTICES

CHRISTMAS TINS

Thank you everyone baking cookies! We've had a great response this year. After today's service we will be loading tins for delivery. This week we will be collecting more bags of cookies and delivering Christmas Tins. If we need more cookies to support **130 tins**, I may be reaching out to some of you. **Let me know if you want to deliver tins, it is the most exciting part of this project.** Please use the sign-up sheet on the table outside the Sacristy, if you would like to take a few Christmas Tins to friends or family. Thank you, Judy

2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

We have had a wonderful response to this year's Stewardship Campaign. We have received 18 pledges and 16 "We Walk By Faith" surveys. So many of you have not only pledged your treasures, but also your time and talents. We are leaving the campaign open for a few more weeks to allow everyone to respond. There are forms and envelopes in the narthex if you would like to pledge. **Thank you for considering Good Shepherd in your life for the next year.**

ADVENT BOOK STUDY

The final session of our Advent book study of "**Dreams: A Way to Listen to God**," by Morton Kelsey, is **tomorrow night at 7 p.m.**, led by Rev. Deborah Rutter. Please read Ch. 8, the last chapter in the book.

SEASONAL FUN: SECRET SANTA GIFT EXCHANGE

After the service next Sunday, Dec. 21, we'll have a bit of extra Christmas cheer. Please bring a small, inexpensive gift to exchange with your church friends. No need to spend money – it can be something you already have. And some food for the refreshments table would be appreciated too.

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Rev. Cathy Tibbetts, who has been bringing communion to Martha Hayes at her nursing home, is offering to teach anyone interested in learning how to administer the rite of Holy Communion to those who cannot come to church. You would accompany Cathy on one of these visits and would be certified in this wonderful way to share Christ's love. Please contact Cathy and/or Judy Hall if you're interested.

OUR COMMUNITY



For our Thanksgiving effort in November, we **collected 248 pounds of food** including six turkeys and many pounds of sweet potatoes. Also, **54 regular and nine vegan to-go lunches** were distributed plus extra “kids” meals. Christine Kestner and Janet Locklear are trying different healthy options for the lunch boxes. Christine is making vegan sandwiches for those that do not eat meat. Janet is looking for ways to include healthier foods, like real cheese, while keeping them familiar to the FISH customers.

Our **Thanksgiving monetary donations totaled \$650**. Thank you so much for the extra giving during the holiday season! We have posted the most recent **handwritten thank-you notes from FISH** on the Parish Hall bulletin board. They contain some touching stories and show the ways our funds are being put to good use.

We are now collecting December food and monetary donations. **The last Sunday to bring donations is Dec. 28**. Please remember: NO glass jars or bottles. We will deliver your donations to FISH on Tues., Dec. 30. We will also be preparing 50 meal boxes to be delivered and distributed on Wed., Dec. 31.

Contact Janet Locklear if you would like to support this food ministry financially or help with fixing meals. The FISH clothing store and food pantry at 36 E. Main St., Berryville, is open every Tuesday 8-10 a.m. and Wednesday 8-11 a.m. Call FISH at 540-955-1823 for more information.



PRAYERS

*Please pray for our neighbors
and for ways we can serve the community.*

Friends and Family: Harriett Hilton (Christine's aunt); Lydia Allie (Christine's cousin's widow) & sons, Austin and Brandon; Robert Stevens (Christine's friend); Bob Zidek (Bryan's dad); Marty Aiken (FISH family); Judy Anderson (Bluemont neighbor); Brian Sweeney (Natalie's brother); Amie Comer (friend at Rose Hill); Judi Floyd; Rose Holden, her sister-in-law Nancy, and her neighbors Andy Pope and Donna Sowder; Jon Hall (Tim's brother); Elaine J. (Christine's friend); Darlene Schaffer and her friends & family: Sam Myers, John West, and Kenny Lucas; Vickie Hooper (in-law of the Halls); Terry (our neighbor Gertrude's niece); Becky Loker (daughter of a friend of the Halls); Eileen Cawood; Adriana Rincon & family (Ron's friend); Lyam (Ron & Christine's friend); Lovette & the Rev. Michael Sie; Nancy Kelley & her great-grandson Hyden McClain; Kevin Tapscott (Lois's nephew); Yvette Webster (Rachel's partner); Craig Eney (Andrea's brother-in-law); Cat Cox (Retreat neighbor); Bobby Duke (our neighbor); The Adamson Family in Russia, especially Chris: David Aikman (Charlene's husband); Dusty Bailey and Ted Weaver (Charlene's friends); Martha Hayes; Lee Ruddle & his spouse, Dane Toler; Tim & Cindy Ingram, and Tim's friend Roberta Adams; Michael Mohn (previous clergy); Kathleen Franz (Kelly's mother).

In thanksgiving for the life of Brian Allie (Christine's cousin),
1960 – 2025.

*To add someone to or remove someone from the prayer list,
send an email to prayerlist@goodshepherdbluemont.org*



GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Follow Christ. Welcome All. Serve Humbly.