Good Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church

A Jubilee Ministry Center



The Third Sunday In Advent
Sunday, December 14, 2025
Holy Eucharist Rite II
Celebrant The Rev. Kim J. Litsey

Our Missional Vision

Good Shepherd of the Hills Church brings the love and light of Christ Jesus to our neighbors. We are called to go out to serve the needs of our community.

Welcome To All Visitors

If you are a visitor today, we welcome you and thank you for worshipping with us! We hope that you are blessed by your visit.

The Right Rev. Jennifer A. Reddall, Bishop
The Rev. Kim J. Litsey, Rector
Eunkyung Suh-Lee, Director of Music
Axel Lopez, Ministry Assistant for Youth
Kristine K., Parish Administrator
Teresa Garnica, Sexton

Today's Ministry Schedule

Lector: Micah Johnson

Altar Servers: David Boyd and Gretchen Curtis

Ushers: Philip Boreham and Todd Knape

Greeter: Lara Bowles

Crucifer: Eme Henderson

~Prelude~ "Meditation No. 2" By: Marianne Kim

Silent entrance of the Choir and Altar Party process to the chancel.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Altar Server will light the first candle as the Lector reads.

Lector: We light this candle to remind us that in Christ all people may have a rich and abundant life. We give thanks for the hope that Jesus the Christ gives us, for the peace he bestows, and for the joy he pours into our hearts.

Celebrant: God of Joy, Emmanuel, may the light of God be reflected in our hearts at this time. Let us be ready for the day and the hour of Christ's appearing. Fix our hearts and our minds on those things you have done and those you have promised to do that we may have the joy you have promised. As we worship you, strengthen us so that we may always do your will.



~Hymn~ #67 "Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"



Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: Psalm 42, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. Hymnal 1982

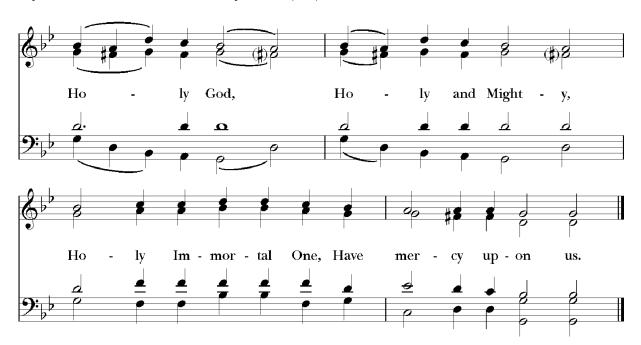
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Eucharist, Rite II The Word of God **Opening Acclamation**

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

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

Hymn Of Praise S#102 Holy God (X3)



Celebrant: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect

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: A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

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

Psalm 146:4-9 (Read In Unison)

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! * whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; * who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, * and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; * the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; * he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The LORD shall reign for ever, * your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

A Reading From The Letter to James

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

~Gospel Hymn~#640 "Watchman, Tell Us Of The Night" (vs. 1 Before & vs. 2 After)





Two groups may sing antiphonally, alternating by sentences.

Words: John Bowring (1792-1872)

Music: Aberystwyth, Joseph Parry (1841-1903)

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The Gospel

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to

Matthew

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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

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.

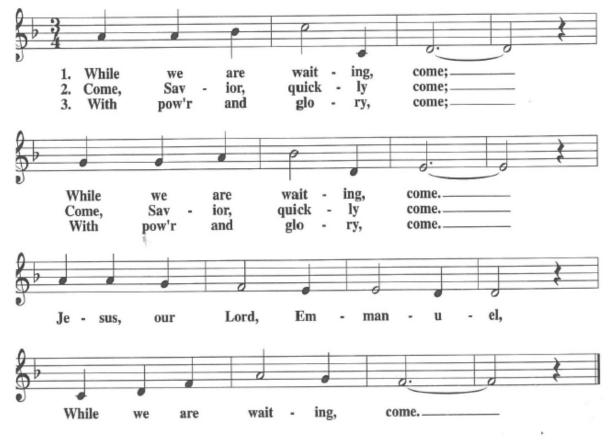
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

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

~Prayers Of The People~ P#130 "While We Are Waiting"



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Prayers of the People

Lector: Holy One, we pray with anticipation of the coming of the Christ child and the hope for the creation of new possibilities and visions for us and our world.

People: God, we pray in the power of your presence.

Lector: With the dream of peace in the world, we pray for the welfare and safety of all your people in every community and nation. **People: God, we pray in the power of your presence.**

Lector: For Good Shepherd of the Hills, that those whose efforts sustain this church and its mission, our members and friends, the clergy, and the Bishop we pray for your guidance and blessings.

People: God, we pray in the power of your presence.

Lector: In our daily life, we thank you for nourishing our soul, energizing our mind and feeding our body so that we may do your work and serve others in your name. We thank you for giving us each unique talent to use with loving purpose.

People: God, we pray in the power of your presence.

Lector: We ask for healing for those in unbearable circumstances, the homeless, the fearful, the anxious and those that are ill and dying, especially for those individuals on our parish prayer list.

People: God, we pray in the power of your presence.

Lector: We pray for those who have died, those we hold in our hearts, and those who have gone before us to the joy of eternal life.

People: God, we pray in the power of your presence.

We gratefully acknowledge the Native Peoples on whose ancestral homelands we gather, the Hohokam, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today.

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty;

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

Celebrant: Our hearts are open to this new advent, new beginning, and new opportunity to embrace the Christ child that came into the world. May the promise of hope, love, joy and peace live in our hearts now and always. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Celebrant says:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, 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.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all 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 Peace

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

People: And also with you.

The Offertory

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High.

The Offering is received and the altar is prepared.

~Offertory Anthem~ "Advent Celebration" By: Joseph M. Martin

Hear that glorious song in the distance, carried on the wings of praise. Soon the heavens will shout and proclaim it. All the earth will celebrate.

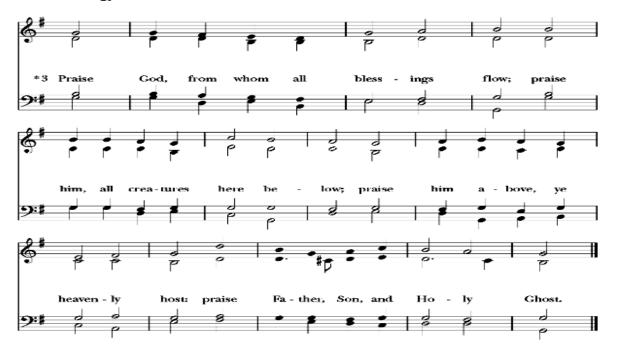
Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming; prepare the way! Jesus is coming; prepare the way!

See the light of the sun in the distance. See the hope that wakes the day. Soon the morning will greet the Messiah. All the earth will celebrate.

Lift a joyful hymn of gladness. Let the alleluias start, for Messiah soon will be coming. Love will rule in every heart.

Hear the glorious song in the distance, sweeping 'cross the hills and plains, telling all that Messiah is coming. Soon the King will come and reign!

The Doxology



The Holy Eucharist Eucharistic Prayer C

The 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 him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People: By your will they were created and have their being.

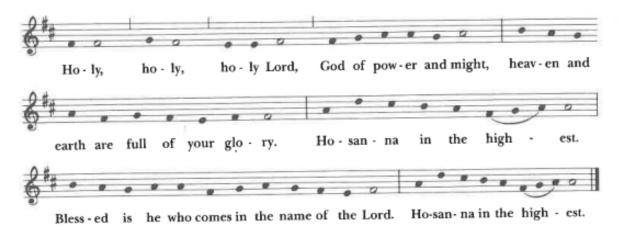
Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace. People: By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus #124



Setting: From New Plainsong; David Hurd (b. 1950)

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues:

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

> We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name. People: Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. Amen.

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

Celebrant 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

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Celebrant: 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.

Communion of the People

All Baptized people are welcome to receive Holy Communion; if you prefer a blessing please cross your arms in front of your chest.

~Communion Hymn~

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" By: Gerard Moultine

Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son 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 Lord. Amen.

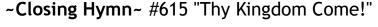
Advent Blessing

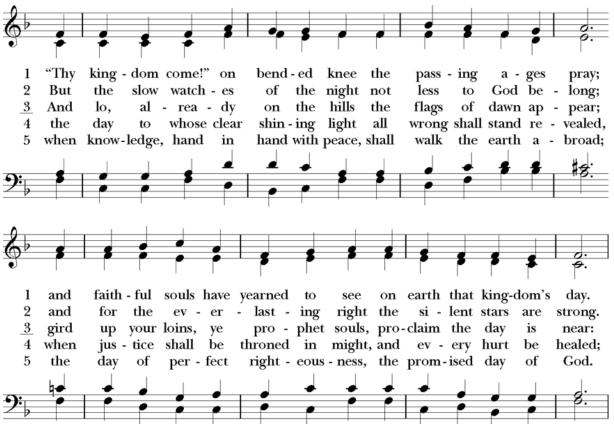
May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. Amen.

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. Amen.

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**





Words: Frederick Lucian Hosmer (1840-1929) Music: St. Flavian, melody from Day's Psalter, 1562; adapt. and harm. Richard Redhead (1820-1901)

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of

the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude "In Christ There Is No East Or West" By: Anthony Giamanco

Please Pray For the Following People

Mariah Myers, Mike, Kathy Frederick, Chris Francis,
Johnny, Mandie, Brynn and Iann Miller, Paddi Mozilo, Jan, Edna, Mat Rhoades, Sylvia
Tabor, Dee Crane, Susan, The Family and Friends of Todd Hodesh, Eric and Michelle
Salawich, Charles, Aaron Parson, John, Hank Zolkiewicz, Tim Rosenhoover, Andrea
Hensley, The Friends and Family of Sharon, The Friends and Family of Hope Ann
Kelly, Bernice Insalaco, Cindy Creamers, Bob S., Joan Shillingburg, Paula Vessels,
David Vessels, and Rachel Vessels, Jan Kramer, Gary Zimmett, Micah Young, Darrow
Miller, Evelyn Bonet, Mary Pierce, The Lee Family, Marion Anderson, Fr. Joe Harte,
Bernadette Davis, Joyce Ann Diehl and Bill Diehl, Debbie Shields, Gertrude Craig, The
Family Roy Longworth, Tom, Dave Cantelme, Susie Hansen, Bence Leite, Bob, Arlo
Nelson, Katie Mitchell, Lydia Meijer, The Family and Friends of Gracia Floyd, John
DeBroske, Patty, Tochia Levine, Annamria, Sondro Leite Jr.

Please Pray for those in the Armed Forces

Stephanie Case Andersen, Adam and Kim Bennett, Jeff Walker, Jeff Lindbom, Jordan Knight, Katherine Guthrie, Pierce Guthrie, Nathan Cole, Gabriel Leite, Blake Henderson Jr., Bryson Henderson, Brady Bevard, Peter Buckley (Johnson)



Please pray for those celebrating their Anniversary: Jim & Gretchen Curtis and Birthday: Peter Hewitt





Flowers are given by Bill & Tycha Flickinger In Thanksgiving for their Great-Grandbaby Keaton, to be born before Christmas

Offerings at a Glance!

Tuesday

Bible Study Tuesdays @ 1pm Good Shepherd Library & 7pm via Zoom AA Group Tuesdays 7:00 PM

Wednesday

Centering Prayer Wednesdays 10:00am via Zoom Sandwich/Meal Making Every Second Wednesday 9:30am AZ Archeological Society Meetings Every Second Wednesday Choir Practice Wednesdays 6-7:30 PM

Thursday

Foothills Caring Corps Memory Cafe, Third Thursday 10-11:30 AM Autism Support Group, Third Thursday 6:30-7:45pm @ Norterra Panera Youth Ministry Thursdays @ 4pm-6pm

Weekend

Centering Prayer Saturdays 9:00am Hiking Ministry Every Third Saturday of the Month Bell Choir Practice Sundays 11:30-12:30 PM

Special Offerings

Advent Bible Study Mondays 1-2:30pm December 1st - 22nd.



We continue to welcome your pledge for 2026!

Stewardship at Good Shepherd: A Season of Gratitude

As we enter this Advent Season, we give thanks for the many blessings we share at Good Shepherd—our worship, our fellowship, and our ministry in the community. Each gift of time, talent, and treasure helps make God's love visible in our parish and beyond.

We invite you to prayerfully consider your pledge for the coming year as an expression of gratitude for all that God has given. Every pledge, no matter the size, strengthen our shared life of faith and hope.

Together, we give thanks—and together, we grow in grace.

Lynn Walsh- Stewardship Chair Good Shepherd of the Hills



Christmas Flower Dedications!

If you would like to honor the memory of a loved one, or honor and bless your family and friends this holy season, please fill out the form below.

Christmas Flowers have been dedicated to:

Message:

By:

Please return your forms no later then Wednesday, December 17th.

Suggested Donation of \$15 can be paid by Cash, Check or Electronic payment via our website.. (www.goodshepherdaz.org)

Please put Christmas Flower Dedication on the memo line of your check, or in the note section if paying online.



Thank you to Mary and Don Solon for volunteering to send out our Christmas Cards again this year! We are so grateful to them both for their contributions to our Card Ministry.

A HUGE Thank you to all that donated to our Holiday Good Neighbor Donation Drive for the Foothills Food Bank! We collected \$350 in Gift cards, 11 Blankets, 10 Pairs of Men's and Women's Slippers, 25 pairs of Socks, 4 pairs of Kids Mittens, 18 Crossword, Word Search and Puzzle Books, 7 Boxed Puzzles, 51 Toys for all ages, and 14 Board Games!





Your kindness helps provide gifts, food, and holiday joy to more than 800 families in our community who might otherwise go without. Because of you, their season is brighter and filled with hope for a better tomorrow.

> Thank you for your support. The Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center





We are collecting food and supplies for the Foothills Food Bank to help with their growing demand! Please drop your donations in the designated areas in the Narthex or in the back of Maitland Hall.



Peanut butter and jelly, Soup, Canned tuna/chicken, Canned fruit, Canned vegetables, Dry pasta, Pasta Sauce, Canned Pasta, One pound bags of rice, Bottled water, Paper towels.





Good Shepherd Hikers December Hike!

On December 20, the Good Shepherd hikers are planning to hike in Cave Creek Regional Park. We will hike the Slate and Quartz trails for approximately 3.5 miles. This trail is moderate because it is rocky in places with some minor ascents and descents. The scenery is spectacular with some unusual cacti, slate and quartz rock formations.

There is a \$7/car entry fee to the park, which is accessed from 32nd street off the Carefree Highway. Once you get into the park, go past the visitor center and turn left onto mountain then turn right onto Tonalita Dr. there is ample parking near the Slate trail head. Please sign up on the sheet in Maitland Hall or contact Deb Boreham to RSVP.



Bible Study will be on holiday until January 6th and 7pm via

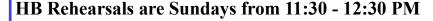
Flower Dedications!

Our Altar Flower Dedication Program is back! The Flower Calendar has been posted in Maitland Hall for you to sign up for your special dates! Suggested Donation \$50.



Join the Choir or Handbell Choir!

Choir Rehearsals are Wednesday 6-7:30 PM



Open to All! For more information, on the Handbell Choir or Choir please contact; Eunkyung Suh Lee





Good Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church

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Office Hours Tuesday- Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Good Shepherd of the Hills 2025 Vestry Members

Senior Warden

Bob Pope

Mark Spolarich

Audra Botwin
Lara Bowles
Dave Cantelme
Cynthia Farlow
Bernice Insalaco
Micah Johnson
Bobbie MacKenzie
Trudy Rhoades

Treasurer Clerk
Ed Simpson Sue Jenks

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Visit our website at www.goodshepherdaz.org

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