

Parish of the Good Shepherd

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN WABAN, MASSACHUSETTS

The Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025 – 10:00AM
Gaudete - Rose Sunday

CHORAL EUCHARIST, Rite I
The Book of Common Prayer, page 323

Voluntary *Pastorale* from *Suite for Organ*

Ulysses Kay (1917-1995)

The people stand as the bell tolls.

Processional Hymn *The Hymnal 1982 #76*

Winchester New (Descant: Apgar)

“On Jordan’s bank, the baptist’s cry announces that the Lord is nigh”

THE WORD OF GOD

The Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer 323

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

People And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

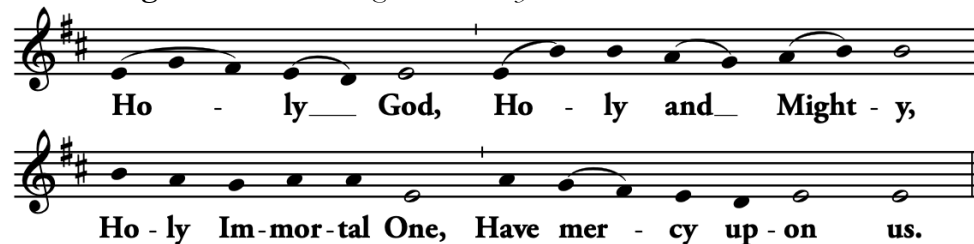
Collect for Purity and Summary of the Law

The Book of Common Prayer 323

The Trisagion

sung three times by all

the Hymnal 1982 S 99



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect for Advent III

The Book of Common Prayer 160

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

The People sit.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Canticle *Magnificat anima mea*

A musical score for the song 'The Rose Tree'. The score is written for a piano accompaniment in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a key signature change from G major to E major (two sharps) indicated by a double bar line and a key signature change symbol. The second system continues in E major. The melody is written in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left hand. The score includes a key signature change from G major to E major (two sharps) and a time signature change from 2/4 to 3/4.

- ## The Second Lesson

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.

Sequence Hymn *The Hymnal* 1982 #65

The people stand. Bereden väg för Herran

“Prepare the way, O Zion”

The Gospel *Standing*

Matthew 11:2-11

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*People* **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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 be to thee, O Christ.****The Sermon***The People sit.***The Nicene Creed** *The People stand.**The Book of Common Prayer 326*

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*Form IV, The Book of Common Prayer 388**Leader* Lord, in your mercy;*People* **Hear our prayer.**

The Confession of Sin

The Book of Common Prayer 331

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

The people kneel.

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.

The Celebrant stands and adds an absolution.

Absolution and Comfortable Words

The Book of Common Prayer 332

The Peace *The people stand.*

The Book of Common Prayer 332

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Welcome, Announcements, and Offertory Sentence

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem *Rorate coeli desuper*

G.P. da Palestrina (1525–1594)

Drop down, you heavens, from above and let the clouds pour down righteousness: let the earth open and bring forth the Savior. Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation: come, O Lord, and do not tarry. Alleluia.

The ushers collect the offering. Your generosity supports the ministries & work of this parish.

The Great Thanksgiving (Prayer II)

The Book of Common Prayer 340

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 with the Proper Preface until saying,

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

“Holy, holy, holy” *Sanctus*

The Hymnal 1982 #S 114

**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. The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer until saying,

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.**

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

“Our Father” *The Lord’s Prayer*

The Book of Common Prayer 336

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

“O Lamb of God” *Agnus Dei*

The Hymnal 1982 S 158

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.**

The Presentation and Invitation

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.

We welcome all baptized persons, regardless of denomination or tradition, to receive Communion. Please come forward as the ushers direct you. The Celebrant communicates every individual with bread. To receive wine, you may either drink from the common cup or by intinction. Those wishing to receive a blessing instead should indicate by crossing their arms.

During the Administration of the Sacrament

Anthem *The eyes of all wait upon thee*

William H. Harris (1883-1973)

Hymn *The Hymnal 1982 #64*

O Heiland, rei

“O heavenly Word, eternal Light”

The Post-Communion Prayer

The Book of Common Prayer 339

Celebrant and People, kneeling

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

The people stand for the Last Gospel.

The Last Gospel

John 1:1-7

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word... Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Processional Hymn *The Hymnal 1982 #68*

Llangloffan (Descant: Apgar)

“Rejoice! rejoice, believers”

The Dismissal



Voluntary *Fugue on the Magnificat (Mode II)*

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

The Last Gospel - During Advent and Christmas, we read from the Prologue to John’s Gospel following the Post-Communion Prayer. This stems from the Medieval tradition of reading John 1 at the conclusion of every Mass. According to our adaptation of this tradition, in Advent, the reading ends with light shining in the darkness; it is extended in the season of Christmas with the Word becoming Flesh.

Music Minute – Today we hear an organ work by Ulysses Kay, whose musical education was shaped by a diverse collection of influences. First pointed toward music at age six by his uncle King Oliver, the trumpeter who mentored Louis Armstrong, Kay developed relationships with William Grant Still and Paul Hindemith during studies at the University of Arizona, Eastman, Yale, and Columbia. Characterizing his overall style as “lyrical,” Kay used no shortage of dissonance but did not incorporate serialist techniques, and his works earned him a slew of fellowships, awards, and other accolades during his career. Kay’s perception of his art changed during his life, exemplifying the nuanced ways in which people negotiate racial identities through music. For most of his career, he wanted to be seen in non-racialized terms—a composer, not a Black composer. As musicologist Emily Abrams Ansari has written, Kay sought to effect this “by repeatedly denying the influence of race upon his music; by avoiding racial referents in title choices and stylistic decisions; and by resisting racial typecasting by accentuating his individuality as a composer.” This connected to his aesthetic views, as recalled by his daughter Virginia: “Through most of his career the idea of art and expression for its own sake—for the music itself—was the ideal.” Musicians of this period often insisted that art can and should exist autonomously, in isolation from the political, social, and embodied contexts in which it is made. Ultimately, however, Kay’s experiences of the civil rights movement, in particular his wife Barbara’s political activism, drew him away from the de-politicized frameworks of modernism. “Towards the end of his career,” observed his daughter, “he was very clear that [his music] was African-American in so far as it was his creation.” In her view, this shift crystallized in the operatic corner of the composer’s oeuvre. Where he had previously set libretti that were based on works by Chekhov and Twain, each of Kay’s last two operas, *Jubilee* (premiered 1976) and *Frederick Douglass* (premiered 1991), followed the experiences of enslaved (then freed) people during and after their enslavement.

Parish Notes for the Third Sunday of Advent

Coffee Hour – Please join us in the Common Room with today's hosts
Alison and Jay Weldon

This Week at Good Shepherd:

<u>Sunday</u>	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
		Coffee Hour Follows
	11:45 AM	Adult Forum in the Loring Room and on ZOOM
	5:30 PM	Celtic Eucharist
	6:30 PM	Do Love Christmas Party at the Rectory
<u>Tuesday</u>	6:30 PM	Bible Study on ZOOM
<u>Wednesday</u>	6:45 PM	Midweek Eucharist

Adult Forum in December: Advent and Christmas in the Arts, High & Low
Dec 14 Pearl Clutching at the Messiah; from (not so) good will to Christmas tradition, with Elise Groves

Dec 21 ~ Festive Coffee Hour to Honor Jamie Apgar after the 10:00AM service

Good Shepherd welcomes Dr. Andrew Shenton as Interim Organist/ Choirmaster, beginning January 11, 2026. Dr. Shenton is the Chair of Sacred Music at the BU School of Theology.

Christmastide Service Schedule:

Sun - Dec 21	10:00AM	Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist
Wed - Dec 24	4:30PM	Family Christmas Eucharist, Rite II
	10:00PM	Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite I
Sun - Dec 28	10:00AM	Christmas I Choral Holy Eucharist
Sun - Jan 4, 2026	10:00AM	Christmas II with Epiphany Brunch

Christmas Flower Donations – Offering envelopes for Christmas flowers are available at the back of the church. Donations in any amount may be given in honor or memory of someone. Please print names clearly and mark checks "Christmas Flowers," or e-mail the information to the parish office. **Donations must be received no later than Friday, December 19, 2025 at 12:00PM.**

Christmas Cookie Swap & Potluck Lunch – December 21 following the 10AM service. Please RSVP to Mary Dawley or Barbara Bower to participate.

Sustain Campaign - A small capital campaign to preserve our church and renew our future through building upgrades and climate modernization, to provide financial and environmental stability for the future. As you consider your year-end giving, please prayerfully consider supporting Sustain.

Stewardship 2025/2026 – Per IRS regulations, all donations must be postmarked or received in hand by **December 31st** to be counted for fiscal year 2025.

If you have not made a 2026 Pledge, please do so as soon as possible.

Adult Forum in 2026: Epiphany Series- A Light to Lighten the Gentiles

Jan 4 Epiphany Brunch with Visitation of the Magi

Jan 11 The scandal of Jesus's Baptism, with Father Jay

Jan 18 Buddhist Nationalism and Christian Minorities in Myanmar,
with Sut Hting Mung Awn

Jan 25 Uncreated Light in Milton's *Paradise Lost*: Divine Revelation and
Poetic Creation, with Marcelle Couto

Feb 8 Nostra Aetate: Jewish-Christian Relations since Vatican II, with the
Rev.d Dr. Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski (BC Theology Dept. Faculty)

Serving in the Liturgy today:

Biz Bracher – Lector/Usher; **Troy Bracher** – Subdeacon; **James Oldfield** – Chalice Bearer; **Sarah Kupovykh** –
Intercessor; **Matt Harris** – AV Tech; **Ella Weldon** – Crucifer; **Ryan Dawley** – Torch Bearer(s); **Melissa
Corbin**– Atrium Asst(s); **Barbara Wood** – Altar Guild

The Reverend Dr. James Weldon – Celebrant and Preacher

The Reverend Dr. James A. Weldon, Jr., Rector
The Reverend Kevin Vetiak, Priest Associate
Dr. James C. Apgar, Organist/Choirmaster
Dr. Rachel Teubner, Christian Education Director
Sara Foley, Parish Administrator

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