



SERVING US IN WORSHIP TODAY

ORGANIST & HANDBELL DIRECTOR
CHOIR DIRECTOR
CONTEMPORARY MUSIC
PIANIST & ORGANIST

Cheryl Todd
Jonathan Tatar
Jon Conover and ReBorn
Sue Gilla

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIVING: Online giving is available and is appreciated as we will still have our regular operating costs and bills. Please mail in your giving to P.O. Box 695 5 W. Washington St. Oswego IL 60543 or use our E giving for online giving <https://giving.ncsservices.org/app/giving/goodshepherdoswego> which can also be found on our website under the giving tab. ~ Thank you!

BOOK CLUB: We've selected *Mad Honey* by Picoult and Boylan as our book club pick for January. Our next meeting will be at Nancy Patush's house on Tuesday, February 11, at 2:30 p.m.
New members are always welcome!

MEN'S LUNCH: The United Methodist Men will be having their monthly Men's Luncheon at Olive Garden, 2620 US-34, Oswego on Wednesday, February 19th at noon. Please join us for fellowship and a fine meal.

PRAYER CHAIN LEADERSHIP: *Many thanks to Diane Clodi for her heartfelt and dependable leadership of our Prayer Chain these past two years. This position will now be handled by Pat Rogerson who can be contacted for prayer needs by phone 630-220-1649 or email prayerchaingoodshepherd24@gmail.com*

Thanks to Pat for her willingness to help us stay connected in faith as we move into this new year. ~Pastor Steve



THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Online Worship Service
January 26, 2025**

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“OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.”

January 26, 2025
3rd Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME! We are happy you came to worship with us today. If you would like to join our mailing list please subscribe on our website. www.goodshepherdoswego.org

PRELUDE *Salute the Happy Morn* Cheryl Todd

WORSHIP IS CELEBRATING GOD'S LOVE AND POWER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Your law is perfect, O God; it revives the soul; your commandment is pure; it enlightens our eyes.

People: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, my rock and my redeemer.

Leader: Let us worship God. +

SONG OF PRAISE *A Place Called Faith*

WORSHIP IS SHARING AND PRAYING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Leader: "Lord, in your mercy"

People: "Hear our prayer"

HYMN *The Star is Shining Still*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Your law is perfect, O God, your ways are just. We praise you for Christ, who makes known your word. Gold's value is nothing compared to the salvation you offer; the sweetness of honey is a foretaste of the feast you prepare Made alive by your mercy and renewed in your Spirit, we come adoring your goodness, O God, our Rock and Redeemer. **Amen** +

SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORDS PRAYER #895

WORSHIP IS HEARING GOD'S WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC: *When Morning Gilds the Skies* Joyful Noise Handbells

SCRIPTURE: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 * Matthew 4:12-23

SERMON: *Hold On* Rev. Steve Good

WORSHIP IS WITNESSING TO THE WORLD

HYMN *Precious Lord Take My Hand*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* Cheryl Todd

+ Kirk [When We Gather](#)

Let Go music and lyrics by Jon Conover

Salute the Happy Morn. Written by John Wainwright, arranged by Robert J. Hughes.

A Place Called Faith by Jon Conover

I Sing the Mighty Power of God traditional folk hymn arranged by Benton Price

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Matthew 4:12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—
the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned."

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.