



## 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. 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!

**ONLINE GIVING:** New Online Giving platform: Zeffy.com which is a 100% free service for not-for-profit organizations like Good Shepherd. Please consider switching your current online egiving as soon as possible:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/donate-to-support-church-of-the-good-shepherd-umc>

**ORNAMENTS:** Our next ornament in the stained-glass series is here! Just \$10. The newest ornament, displaying the cross and crown is for sale. Currently available through the office. Ornaments will be available for purchase in the gathering room on Sundays Nov 30th through December 21.

**ADVENT STUDY:** Pastor Steve will lead a 4-session class on Mondays at 7 pm in the Gathering Room. Participants should to online (such as Cokesbury or Amazon) to purchase the student book entitled: *A Child is Born: A Beginners Guide to Nativity Stories* by Amy-Jill Levine. Together we will look at the nativity scenes in the bible, focusing on "the people and angels who came before Jesus, yet lived into his story in profound ways". You will see yourself in these characters and their unlikely stories as we explore the themes of birth and rejoicing.

The Monday evening classes will be Dec. 1, 8, 15, and 22

Please sign up in the Gathering Room or by contacting the church office (630) 554-3269

**BOOK CLUB:** The date of the next book club meeting has been changed to Tuesday, December 16th at 1:00 p.m. at Nancy Patush's house. We will be discussing the book *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. All readers are welcome!

**NATIVITY SCENE DISPLAY:** We are excited to announce that the Nativity Scene Display will be back this year for the Oswego Christmas Walk on Friday, December 5. As you unpack your Christmas decorations, please consider letting us borrow your Nativity set for our display in the sanctuary. We take special care with your sets. A signup sheet and dates for drop off is located in the Gathering Room. Please label your boxes and nativity with your name and phone #. Any questions, please call Pam Dodson at 630-554-1203.



THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Online Worship Service  
December 7, 2025**

Office: (630) 554-3269 Email: [office@goodshepherdoswego.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdoswego.org)

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[www.goodshepherdoswego.org](http://www.goodshepherdoswego.org)

*"OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS."*

December 7, 2025  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

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](http://www.goodshepherdoswego.org)

PRELUDE	<i>Still, Still, Still</i>	Cheryl Todd
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WORSHIP IS CELEBRATING GOD’S LOVE AND POWER

CALL TO WORSHIP  
Leader: Let me hear what God will speak, for God will speak peace to God’s people.

**People: Surely God’s salvation is at hand for those who fear God, that glory may dwell in our land.**

Leader: Yes, God will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.  
**People: In God’s righteousness let us worship, that we may walk in God’s way. +**

SONG OF PRAISE	<i>All the Angels</i>	Reborn
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WORSHIP IS SHARING AND PRAYING

JOYS AND CONCERNS  
Leader: “Lord, in your mercy”  
**People: “Hear our prayer”**

SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORDS PRAYER #895

PRAYER OF CONFESSION  
**O God, you judge your people with righteousness; we judge our neighbors either right or wrong. Your Servant defended the cause of the poor; it is because of our greed that many still are poor. You bring deliverance to the needy, but we stand and in the way of its being received. Make us mindful of your dominion, how you rule while sun and moon endure. May we bow down before you and pay you the tribute that you are due. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON  
Know this: if you are willing, you will be taught. If you pause to listen you will gain knowledge. Reflect on God’s statutes and meditate on the commandments. It is God who will give insight to your mind, and your desire for wisdom will be granted.

WORSHIP IS HEARING GOD’S WORD

SONG OF PRAISE	<i>Prince of Peace</i>	Reborn
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SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40:1-11, * Matthew 1:18-25	Rev. Steve Good
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SERMON: *Journey of Trust*

HOLY COMMUNION

WORSHIP IS WITNESSING TO THE WORLD

SONG OF PRAISE	<i>Oceans</i>	Reborn
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE	<i>What Child is This?</i>	Cheryl Todd
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\* Kirk When We Gather  
*Room for You at the Table* music and lyrics by Jon Conover  
“Still, Still, Still”. Traditional Austrian Melody arranged by Douglas E. Wagner  
*Oceans* by Joel Houston, Matt Crocker, Salomon Ligthelm  
2012 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Hillsong Music Publishing USA)  
“What Child is This?” Traditional English Melody arranged by Kenneth D. Varner

## Isaiah 40:1-11 NRSVUE

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.  
A voice cries out:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."  
A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All flesh is grass;  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers; the flower fades,  
[[when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers; the flower fades,]]  
but the word of our God will stand forever.  
Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good news;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"  
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him  
and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms  
and carry them in his bosom  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

## Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.