

GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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DECEMBER REFLECTION

By Rev. Tim

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Welcome to the season of Advent, which, this year, began on November 28 and ends on Christmas Eve with a focus on love. This time of year calls us to reflect on the story of Jesus, and God, who loves us so incredibly that He/She exists without a boundary between divinity and humanity and comes gasping into this world to love us in person.

God's love is endlessly surprising, uncontainable, unexpected, unconventional, boundary-breaking, and against the rules. And that – a love that refuses to be ordinary, expected, or contained – a love that breaks the rules – is really what the birth of Jesus, and frankly his whole life, and death, and resurrection are all about.

Jesus' whole ministry was about loving against the rules. It includes a love that chooses mercy instead of violence, a love that embraces the outcasts first, making family out of social pariahs, tax collectors, sex workers, widows and children, the sick and disabled, the overlooked, forgotten, and the hated. Society says to keep to your own, stay away from those people; they're problematic. Associating with them makes you problematic. So, you're not allowed to love those people. It's wrong. It's unclean. You can't. And Jesus says: watch me.

Jesus says the same about loving us – about the most hidden, unbearable, broken parts of us. The love of God, in Jesus, spills right over the barriers we hide behind. His love seeps like water between the cracks in the walls we put up to protect ourselves.

And it all starts in a manger, in a tucked away, forgotten corner of the world with a young couple who all the rules say shouldn't be together, but they are anyway. May love surprise us all this Christmas; may it flow through every crack and well up in surprising, beautiful ways.

Love and Blessings to you and the people important in your life!

Tim+



CHRISTMAS WEEKEND SERVICES

Due to limited clergy availability over the holiday weekend, the Mission Committee approved a reduced schedule. The schedule will be as follows:

FRIDAY, DEC. 24: CHRISTMAS EVE: 5PM

Chorale (and Congregation) Caroling Program: **NOTE: The chorale will be unmasked for a few songs.** Immediately following this will be the...

Christmas Eve Service: Rev. Tim McDonald, Presiding

Our tradition of offering Champagne in the back of the church continues at the close of service.

After the Service: Christmas Eve Potluck at Tim and Bob's house: Details to be announced.

SATURDAY, DEC. 25: No Christmas Day Service

SUNDAY, DEC. 26: Regular Sunday Church Service at 10am, Deacon Bob, Preaching

REMEMBERING IN DECEMBER

St. Lucy or Lucia, December 13th

St. Lucy was martyred in 304 at Syracuse in Sicily during the Roman persecution. Her tomb can be found in the catacombs of Syracuse. Though the details of her life are obscure, she is remembered for her purity and gentleness. Her name means light. Her feast day was on the shortest day of the year (until the calendar was changed in 1582.)

In Scandinavian countries, where winter days are short, her day is remembered not only by the church, but in a popular observance. Young girls are dressed in white with a crown of lighted candles on their heads, a sign that the light will be returning, and they serve special foods.

Loving God, for the salvation of all you gave Jesus Christ as a light to a world in darkness: Illumine us, as you did your daughter Lucy, with the light of Christ, that by the merits of his passion, we may be led to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*

Source: *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*
Jane+

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH HONORED AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The annual convention of the Diocese of Northern California was held on November 4, 5, and 6. On Friday, the 5th, we were thrilled to learn that Good Shepherd was recognized by Episcopal Community Services as a **"Transformer" church** that is making a difference in Cloverdale and thereby making it a more beloved community. They noted our past participation in the Cloverdale Food Bank and current work with La Familia Sana as two of the activities leading to the award of \$500 to our discretionary fund. Also, **Rev. Jane was re-appointed by the Bishop** as the Diocesan

Ministry Partner to Episcopal Relief and Development. And, **congratulations to Reverend Tim** who was elected to serve a four year term on the Diocesan Standing Committee. He also serves on the Committee on Ministry to interview candidates for going forward with the priesthood.

REMINDER!
CHRISTMAS TREE WISH GIFT COLLECTION



Unwrapped gifts must be brought to the church no later than Sunday, December 5th. Thanks for your help in making a child's Christmas wish come true.

GOOD SHEPHERD IN THE NEWS:

Good Shepherd's outreach work in the community was mentioned in an article in the 11/21/21 morning edition of the Press Democrat. The article describes the trying housing conditions for low income workers in Sonoma County. Good Shepherd continues to support those who need help paying rent and/or utilities. If you would like to help with this ministry please contact Deacon Bob.



HELP NEEDED: GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Volunteer help is needed to set up and decorate the church for the Christmas Eve Service after the December 19 church service.

Also, Rev. Jane has purchased 12 poinsettias - you can purchase one or more for a \$15 each donation on behalf of or in memory of a loved one. Jane will provide a sign-up sheet at the back of the church.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP MEETING

This month, on Friday, December 10, instead of our usual Thursday Fellowship meeting, we will have another opportunity to join with

others in our community for a 7:30 pm Holiday Concert given in the Cloverdale Veteran's Hall Auditorium by the Healdsburg Community Band. The Healdsburg Community band has between 30 and 40 members, including some Cloverdale locals, and they will play a selection of holiday tunes. The concert will be about an hour and 15 minutes. Masks will be required. For further information, contact Gene Marcinkowski.



CLOVERDALE WINTER FESTIVAL & TREE LIGHTING: DEC. 3

The Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce of Commerce, with support from the Cloverdale Lions Club, is presenting the annual Winter Festival & Tree Lighting in downtown Cloverdale on the first Friday in December. Downtown businesses will be open to holiday shoppers. Gingerbread cookie decorating for the kids, hot chocolate, hot cider and donuts hosted by the Cloverdale Lions

Club. Holiday tree lighting for the holiday season. Santa arrives at 5:30 and will be downtown to listen to kids' holiday wish lists.



MISSION COMMITTEE MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Worship Committee – New Communion Procedure

Jane said that Bishop Megan sent out to clergy and lay leaders instructions for communion by Clergy Intinction. This makes communicants able to receive communion in two kinds, rather than just the bread. We did this different procedure on November 21st for the first time. We are still tweaking the new procedure to create a better crowd flow. Here is the procedure we will try on Dec. 5:

1. Priest with the paten of consecrated bread, and the Deacon with the chalice, stand at the foot of the stairs.

2. **Starting from the back**, Communicants from one side of the church will be directed up the center aisle by the usher. (Think

Matthew 20:16 "...the last will be first, and the first will be last.")

3. Communicants point to the chalice if they want the bread dipped very sparingly into the chalice by the priest.

4. The priest places the intincted bread/wafer into the communicant's hand. The communicant places the wafer in their mouth.

5. Communicant then turns, walks back down the center aisle (not the side aisles) to their pew seating.

6. This is repeated for the other side of the church.

7. People physically unable to come up for communion, will remain seated in their pew, and clergy will come to them. (We have always done this before these changes.)

Property and Maintenance

Marshall finished applying non-slip tape on the stairs and rails. Gene said that, unfortunately, we'd get nothing from insurance on car damage to the plantings in front of the church as it is under our deductible. Gene also said the ventilation system appears to be rodent-free and filters look clean.

Outreach/Internal Fellowship

Advance tickets for the 2022 Cabaret at the February Citrus Fair will be available for purchase in December. Gene will purchase 2 tables of tickets for our Church for the Feb. 17 @ 7pm performance. Rebecca will manage reservations - details to be announced later.

Communications

Elaine asked that since there is no Mission Committee meeting in December that everyone please send her items for the January newsletter (by December 20).

New Business

Since our Synthia system software is no longer supported, Bob recommended purchase of a new Synthia. Digital Hymnal plays all the hymns in the hymnal plus has greater versatility. The Committee approved the purchase of a Digital Hymnal subject to Ron Longo's approval that it will work with the Bose System.

Gene asked everyone to think of new Mission Committee members as there will be two people coming off in January (Gene and Lynn).

THE GOOD SHEPHERD PRAYER BOARD

By Elaine Rock

There are many reasons we all love the worship services at the Church of Good Shepherd. But I believe one tradition reveals just how caring a congregation we genuinely are. Outside the front of the church is a prayer board that invites members of and visitors to our community to write a petition for prayers at our next Sunday service, no matter what the faith or spiritual belief of the passer-by. Anyone can stop to write an anonymous prayer request over an emotional need, dilemma, a lost loved one, or an illness in the family or share a positive message, be it a newborn baby, new job,

graduation, or marriage. As these requests are read to us every Sunday without fail, our congregation prays for each person who writes one. Many of the requests are poignant and evoke an assortment of emotional responses in the pews for the joyous ones and the sorrowful ones. We collectively sigh, silently weep, grieve, smile or laugh as we pray for them and think of the universal human conditions that can make or break us or elevate our happiness. But most importantly, we rejoice in knowing that our prayers are always raised up to God by our faith on their behalf. Here are some petitions we received this year:

- I'm a single mom who just moved here from Santa Rosa. Please pray that we are OK here.
- From Dana: Prayers of gratitude for the birth of my first grandchild, Jameson
- Thank you for Donna and thank you for health
- Rest in peace Harold Mires, fellow veteran
- For Chad's marathon training; may he stay healthy and motivated!
- Rest in peace Codie Lynn; give me strength to commit to a strategy and follow through.
- That we can make it work this time.
- I pray that my mom will build my sister's faith.
- That all people get rewarded for their good deeds. Amen.
- I hope that everyone should be loved.
- Thank God for another day.
- For the healing of our planet.
- Rain please
- I pray that we (and the animals too) stay safe from the fires.
- For inner peace
- That my lost pay envelope gets returned.
- We pray for fairness. Thank you Lord.



Ann Beekhuis

Marshall Kelly

Yvette Manson





Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-20-2001

**SORRY FOLKS, WE'RE BOOKED SOLID ... GOD
HIMSELF COULDN'T GET A ROOM HERE TONIGHT**

