



CHURCH OF THE  
**Good Shepherd**

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**NOVEMBER 30, 2025**

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**Welcome to the Church of the Good Shepherd!**

We are excited you are here. Please visit the welcome table in the Narthex following the service to learn more about ways you can join in.

If you have not already, please complete the Connect Card in the pew in front of you so that we can get to know you!

**Alms Offering | TODAY**

During the final hymn, we will collect alms for our partner **Durham Rescue Mission** (DRM). As Durham's oldest and largest long-term homeless shelter, DRM provides food, clothing, training, biblical counseling, job placement, and more to broken men, women, and children. Online giving is available as well.

**CGS Food Donation Drive | THANK YOU**

We are grateful to share that the church's response to our food drive was a remarkable success! Because of your generosity, we collected seven carloads of food to support many local families in Durham and Chapel Hill, along with many generous financial donations given directly to the **Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC** and **TABLE**.



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November 30, 2025 | 10:45 AM

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## Welcome & Announcements

**Alms Offering** | Adam Todd, Durham Rescue Mission

**Call to Worship** | Bob Burns, Pastor of Spiritual Formation

**Lighting of the First Advent Candle** | Makaila Mele and Caroline Garrett

**Song** | *Praise to the Lord Almighty*

**Song** | *O Come, O Come Emmanuel / Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

**Scripture Reading** | Ruling Elder Todd Rust, Galatians 4:4-7, pg. 974

## Congregational Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Dismissal of Children** | *(Ages 3 to 3rd grade)*

Q: What is our prayer for our children?

A: To know and enjoy God and his Word.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

**Scripture Reading** | Genesis 3:15, pg. 3

**Sermon** | *The First Promise of Christmas*

Simon Stokes, Lead Pastor

**Series:** O Come, O Come Emmanuel: Finding Christmas in the Old Testament



## **Song** | *Living Hope*

### **Confession of Sin**

Merciful Father, we confess that with us there is an abundance of sin, but in you there is the fullness of righteousness and mercy. We are spiritually poor, but you are rich and in Jesus Christ came to be merciful to the poor. Forgive us our many sins. We are empty vessels that need to be filled; fill us. We are weak in faith; strengthen us. We are cold in love; warm us and make our hearts fervent for you that we might love our neighbors and serve you with all our hearts. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Assurance of Pardon** | Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper\***

*Communion is for anyone who is united by faith to Christ and joined to any Christ-centered church.*

## **Song** | *The Garden*

*We invite you to either join in singing or meditate quietly during this time.*

### **Prayer of Response**

## **Song** | *Joy to the World*

*Alms Offering will be collected during this song.*

### **Benediction**

### **Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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*\*White grape juice is located on the outer ring of the tray; red wine is on the inner rings.*

*The pre-packaged elements in the center of the tray are certified gluten free.*

*The baked bread is prepared using a gluten free mix. Cross-contamination with common allergens is possible.*

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## GROW TOGETHER

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Learn more at [cgsonline.org](http://cgsonline.org) or RSVP with the QR code below.

### Registration for the Women's Retreat | CLOSING TODAY

Today is the final day to register for the Women's Retreat in Greensboro on February 13-14.

### Advent SMCs | December 7 and 14

Join us for Advent prayer at the start of each class. Let's prepare our hearts to worship King Jesus.

### Cookies + Carols | December 6

Bring a buddy and your Christmas cheer, and join us for yummy cookies, crafts, and carols as we kick off the Advent season with our friends 5 years old and younger. (Festive attire highly encouraged.) Questions? Email RiLee ([rileerobeson@cgsonline.org](mailto:rileerobeson@cgsonline.org)).

### Legacy BBQ Brunch | December 11

Sign up for the Legacy BBQ Brunch on December 11! Join us for carols, fun icebreakers, and a delicious BBQ meal. We'll provide the meat, slaw, and beans. You can bring Christmas cookies. Donations to help defray the costs of the meal are appreciated.

### How Great Our Joy! Christmas Worship Service | December 14

Bring the whole family on Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m. to join our choirs in a joyous Christmas celebration.

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## SERVE TOGETHER

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### Christmas Worship Jam Session | December 1

We would love to connect those who play an instrument or sing to the musical community at CGS. Join us at the Whipple's on December 1, at 7:00 p.m. to play and sing Christmas praise songs together. Contact Jen ([jenwhipple@cgsonline.org](mailto:jenwhipple@cgsonline.org)).

### Children's Ministry Service Project | December 14

During Children's Worship, we will be creating blessing bags for the homeless. Please contact Angie ([angieheinrich@cgsonline.org](mailto:angieheinrich@cgsonline.org)) if you are willing to provide 20 of a specific item for the bags.

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## CGS FINANCES

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For Fiscal Year Beginning 7/01/2025

|                                                 |           |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Total Annual Budget:                            | \$610,168 |
| Actual Contributions received as of 10/31/2025: | \$487,735 |

Scan the QR code to  
register for an event:



Please recycle. Thank you!



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## CGS LEADERSHIP

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### ELDERS

Norman Acker  
Doug Betts  
Andrew Carlson  
Stephen Eckel  
Steve Jones  
Dave Long  
Kyle Osborne  
Alex Robeson  
Todd Rust  
Ray Toher

### DEACONS

Richard Alford  
Stephen Balevic  
Daniel Carter  
Justin Davis  
Dean Freck  
Andrew Hassinger  
Aaron Mitchell  
Brian Prentice  
Phillip Yelverton

### SESSION ADVISORS

Michelle Bryan  
Angie Heinrich  
Alex Mitchell