



Welcome to Good Shepherd

Called by God to: Grow; Serve; Love; Care and Worship

Today's Worship

December 6, 2015

“Isaiah of the Exile”

For all of the hard words we hear from the prophets, there are also passages of heartrending grace and beauty. This passage from Isaiah is among those. God is leading God's people home, overcoming every obstacle. Good tidings abound. Despite the people's unfaithfulness to God and their consequential exile, God did not abandon them. God's love endures, even in the face of unfaithful people. God's love continues to endure; there is nothing that can separate us from God.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting . . . “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” vs 1 & 2. . ELW 240

Confession and Forgiveness

P: It is good to remember the whole journey of forgiveness, not just its end. First we confess our sins and turn our hearts toward God.

Silence and reflection

P: Glorious God, your people pray:

C: We have dwelled in a wilderness and we have become accustomed to depending on ourselves. We have grown weak and weary trying to travel through life on our own. Forgive us God for turning inward and depending on ourselves. Forgive our inconsistent attempts to follow you. Lead us out of the wilderness, God. Amen.

P: In whatever wilderness you have found yourself, know that you are not distant from God. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. God is preparing a way for you. Thanks be to God.

C: Amen.

Hymn “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” ELW 242

Prayer of the Day

C: Holy God, a voice has been heard in the wilderness, calling all to prepare the way for your son to arrive in this world. Prepare our hearts to receive your son and help us to prepare to celebrate his arrival once more. Amen.

Children's Message

Choir Anthem “Waiting and Longing”. Adult Choir

Psalm: 85:1-2,8-13 (read responsively)

¹Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²**You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.**

⁸Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

⁹**Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
¹¹**Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

¹²The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.**

*Announcement of Scripture Reading:

P: A reading from the book of Isaiah chapter 40.

C: Praise to you, O Lord.

Bible Story Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak 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. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every 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. ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He 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.

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Song “Comfort, Comfort Now My People” ELW 256

***Apostles' Creed**. page 105

*Sharing the Peace

Offering

Offertory “We Give Thee but Thine Own” vs 1. ELW 686

Prayers of the Church

Words of Institution/The Lord's Prayer

Distribution

Communion Blessing

Sending Hymn “Sent Forth by God's Blessing”. ELW 547

Dismissal

P: Go in peace and share God's abundance.

C: Thanks be to God!

Church Phone: 507-553-3513

Web site: <http://www.goodshepherdwells.org> E-mail: shepherd@bevcomm.net

Broadcast Cable Mediacom TV Channel 107 Sunday at 4:00 pm

Broadcast Cable Bevcomm TV Channel 7 Tuesday at 10:15 am & Wednesday at 7:30 pm

Preaching & Presiding: Rev. Mary Iverson **Scripture Reader:** Bill Groskreutz, Jr.

Communion Helpers: Chad Groskreutz, Sandy Tatge, Paula Nelson

Our support of the Ministry God has given us last week:

Current-\$2,052.00 Missionary-\$469.00 Dedicated-\$2,522.00 11/25-51 11/29-131

Birthdays-Dec 7-12 (If your birthday is not listed please contact the church office with mm/dd/yy.)

7-Trevor Foley	8-Deb Colvin	Amber Roessler	11-Cayden Stern
Jean Kruger	Jason Huper	10-Ardene Breitreutz	12-Dennis Lutteke
Muriel Peters	Mary Ovrebo	Blake Rucker	

In memory of Gerald Groskreutz, memorials have been received towards the Driveway Fund, Good Samaritan Fund, Adult Choir and General Expenses.

In memory of Caroline Tatge, a memorial have been received towards the Funeral Fund.

Rescheduled - The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah. All are welcome to be a part of a discussion on an excellent book that tells the story of two sisters in France during World War II. This story celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and is currently on the New York Times Bestseller list. A discussion will be led by Pastor Mary on Sunday, Dec. 6th at 10:15 a.m.. in the Good Shepherd Parlor.

The Action Team of Thrivent is serving coffee on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015, to provide funds for our Wednesday School curriculum. Please join our Coffee/Fellowship following church services. Donations will be welcomed and appreciated. Thanks!

December Food Collection - During the month of December, a grocery cart near the pulpit in the sanctuary will collect donations of peanut butter. All items collected this month will go to the Wells Area Food Shelf. A special thanks to Ruth Heggen who is leading the food collection this month as a part of her Thrivent Action Team project. Thanks for the generous donations of paper goods (toilet paper and tissue) during November!

Children's Christmas Programs -Both Sunday School and Wednesday School children will present programs during 6:15pm worship on Wed., Dec.16. All children who are participating are encouraged to be at practice on Wed., Dec. 2 & 9 at 7pm. A special thanks to Sandi Hartman who is coordinating the Christmas programs this year! The Wednesday dinner menu that night (5-6 pm) will be sloppy joes.

Senior Saints - Join us for a Christmas gathering with special guests entertaining us with their Christmas music selections. We will join in the celebration of Jesus' birth on Wednesday, December 16, at 11:00 a.m. at the Broadway Apartments. Everyone 55 and older is invited to come and share in the fellowship and enjoy the food provided by the December service group.

Daily Scripture Readings

Dec 7 - Psalm 126	Isaiah 40:1-11
Romans 8:22-25	
Dec 8 - Psalm 126	Isaiah 19:18-25
2 Peter 1:2-15	
Dec 9 - Psalm 126	Isaiah 35:3-7
Luke 7:18-30	
Dec 10- Isaiah 12:2-6	Amos 6:1-8
2 Corinthians 8:1-15	
Dec 11 - Isaiah 12:2-6	Amos 8:4-12
2 Corinthians 9:1-15	
Dec 12 - Isaiah 12:2-6	Amos 9:8-15
Luke 1:57-66	

Wanted: Winter Boots - A much needed item during the winter months are winter boots. USC teachers have many students who are without winter boots. Any Anderson of Good Shepherd is leading a collection of new or gently used winter boots for both children through adult sizes that will then be available to teachers and the school social worker for distribution to students in need. Any remaining boots will then go to the Clothing Closet. A box for boot donations will be under the table by the church office door. Thanks for your help!