



Good Samaritan welcomes and affirms all persons regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race or socioeconomic background. We seek to reconcile any differences that divide us.

PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Rev. Max Richter , Lead Pastor	max@good.org	(952)452-9395
Rev. Jim Beard , Director of Congregational Care	jim@good.org	(952)452-9396
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E-News

Email cindy@good.org to receive the weekly e-news.

Prayer Chain

Email jim@good.org for prayer requests or to receive the weekly prayer chain email.

Find us on:



Thank you...

Usher: Jane Heimerl, Janet Van Benthuyssen

AV Tech: Beth Hutson

Liturgist: Sharon Kraus

Advent Candle Lighting: the Trapp Family - Ryan, Kayla, Ava

Special Music: Chancel Choir

Nursery: Shelley Scharping, Olivia Stevens

Fellowship Hosts: Caroline Carlin, Janet Van Benthuyssen

WORSHIP
10:00 AM

December 7, 2025

Advent 2

Our Vision

Inspiring
Joyful Faith

Building a
Loving
Community

Serving
Neighbors
Near and Far

Today's
Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-10
Matthew 3:1-12



Who we are.

What we do.



Good Samaritan United Methodist Church

5730 Grove Street, Edina, Minnesota 55436

(952) 929-0049 ~ good.org

WELCOME !

Nursery care is available for ages 6 weeks-3 years.

Large print hymnals and bulletins are available from the ushers.

Hearing assist devices are available at the sound booth.

Thank you for supporting our ministries! Offering plates are available by the Sanctuary doors as you exit or scan this QR code to give securely online.



Please join us for refreshments in Fellowship Hall after worship.

*Standing or sitting.

PRELUDE Reflection on "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
JOHN CARTER

GREETING & WELCOME

*HYMN "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" UMH 203

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come to prepare the way;

All: The way for Christ –

the hope of Christ, the peace of Christ –
**to enter our world,
to enter our hearts.**

We cry out together in the wilderness:

The kingdom of heaven has come near.

We come to be part of the light–

the light that shines in the darkness.

HYMN "All Earth is Waiting" UMC 210

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

One: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when "the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6).

All: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God's creation.

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

CHILDREN'S TIME Jan Russell
After Children's Time, children are invited to Sunday School in 200.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "And the Glory of the Lord" G.F. HANDEL
from *Messiah*

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12 (NRSVUE)
The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "Prepare the Way" Rev. Max Richter

*HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" UMH 196

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Confession for Advent

One: The voice of one comes

**All: crying out in the wilderness,
prepare the way of the Lord.**

A messenger prepares the way,

**transforming us like the refiner's fire,
calling us to account.**

For the prophets of old have spoken,

**announcing the breaking open of the dawn,
guiding our feet in the way of peace.**

Merciful God forgive us. Forgive us when we are quick to point the finger at someone else. Forgive us when we put our heads down and ignore the cries of injustice. Forgive us when we presume to understand the complexity of issues that divide and distract the peoples of the land your feet once walked.

Merciful God, forgive us, heal us, encourage us and speak through us, that we may be transformed through the refiner's fire,

and the offerings of our hands and our hearts may prepare the way for the Christ child to be welcomed among us in peace.

The Great Thanksgiving

FWS 2257-a,b,c,d

The Lord's Prayer

Our God*, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*(*Mother, Father, Creator, etc. - use the word that is most meaningful for you.)*

Receiving the Elements

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen or Alleluia.**
The cup of the New Covenant, poured for you. **Amen or Alleluia.**

Music During Distribution Two Advent Improvisations PAUL MANZ
"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

*HYMN "Soon and Very Soon" UMH 706

*BLESSING
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.
Go with us now into the world.
We can begin again!
Everything is about to change.
So make everything new. Make us new.
Reveal your glory in our lives and in the rhythms of our lives,
so that nothing will get in the way of your coming. Amen.

*POSTLUDE "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" ARR. THOMAS KEESECKER

Call to Worship: written by Joanna Harader, and posted on Spacious Faith. <http://spaciousfaith.com/https://re-worship.blogspot.com/search/label/Advent>
Advent Cancel Lighting Liturgy: from *All the Earth is Waiting* - Discipleship Ministries. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/toda-la-tierra-espera/second-sunday-of-advent-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes/second-sunday-of-advent-year-a-candle-lighting-liturgy>
Prayer of Confession: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/search/label/Advent> . Originally posted on the Monthly Prayers page (now Weekly Worship) of the Christian Aid website. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/churches/weekly-worship>
Blessing: written by April Yamasaki, and posted on the Emmanuel Mennonite Church blog. <http://www.emmanuelmennonite.com/>. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/11/closing-prayer-o-come-emmanuel.html>
Cover Photo: Ruvim Miksanskiy on pexels.com



Good Sam Happenings

You're in a GOOD place to ... connect, grow, worship ...

Order Your Poinsettia Today!



The deadline to order a poinsettia to decorate the Sanctuary and take home after Christmas Eve is **today**. Find an order form on the last page of this bulletin.

STEP Donations Through Tomorrow

We are still collecting items for STEP (St. Louis Park Emergency Program) through tomorrow. Unwrapped gifts for infants through 8-year-olds or Target gift cards in amounts \$5-\$25 can be given to Jan Russell or left in the church office.



Aldersgate Merger Final Vote Next Sunday

Next **Sunday, December 14**, following worship, we will vote at a special church conference led by our Conference Superintendent, Becky Jo Messenbrink. Votes must be cast in person or via livestream and cannot be done in advance or by "absentee ballot".



A Festival of Lessons and Carols Next Sunday, December 14, 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary



You are warmly invited to this beloved service featuring the Chancel Choir and the Chancel Chimes, as well as readings of the Nine Lessons and singing of traditional carols. Following the service, we'll gather for a festive reception featuring our Homeward Bound band. Bring your loved ones, invite your friends, and let's celebrate together the hope and joy that Christmas brings!

Feed My Starving Children



Join others for meal packing at the Chanhassen site (18932 Lake Dr E) of Feed My Starving Children this **Wednesday, December 10, 9:30-11:15 a.m.**, or **Friday, December 19, 7:15-8:45 p.m.** Email Jane Heimerl at jane.heimerl@yahoo.com by two days ahead of time.

Moving from Aldersgate

Plans for moving all of Aldersgate's items to Good Samaritan are in place and we need volunteers! On **Monday, December 29**, their items at Spirit of Christ Church (where they are currently meeting) will be moved from various parts of the church to the main doors of SOC. On **Tuesday morning, December 30**, moving trucks will be loaded and come to Good Samaritan. **We need help on both days.** If you are available to help at any time, please reach out to Cindy in the office – cindy@good.org or 952-929-0049.



Gathered in Love: An Interfaith Service of Trans Solidarity Community Event This Tuesday, December 9, 7:00-8:00 p.m. Creekside UCC, 106 E Diamond Lake Rd, Minneapolis, MN 55419



Join others for the Trans Solidarity Service, a multifaith gathering affirming the sacredness of trans and nonbinary lives. People of faith and allies from across Minnesota will come together to proclaim a message of love, courage, and belonging. This service will include music, poetry, and

reflections from trans and BIPOC faith leaders, clergy, and community members across traditions. Together, we'll teach, organize, and be visible in our commitment to trans dignity and inclusion! The service will be free and open to all, with a livestream option. Masks will be required (barring a medical need) for this event and will be available on site. **Go to tinyurl.com/TransLoveMN to register.** The livestream can be accessed at youtube.com/@CreeksideUCCWorship/streams.

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

DUE TODAY!

Poinsettias are said to symbolize good cheer and success while bringing wishes of laughter and celebration. Order a poinsettia for display in the Sanctuary during Advent in honor or memory of a loved one. The cost is \$24.00 each (payable to GSUMC; note "Poinsettia" on memo line.)



Fill out this order form, include payment and put it in the offering plate or the wall money box near the church office by TODAY.

NAME (Please print) _____

PHONE _____

Please note quantity:

Red _____ White _____

In Memory of

In Honor of

This year, smaller plants will be given to our homebound friends, so plan to take your ordered plant home. You may pick up your plant(s) after 9:00 p.m. worship on Christmas Eve or the following week during office hours, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. weekdays. Thank you.