

Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Christmas

December 28, 2025 – 11:00 am



7620 Lanier Drive, Cumming, GA 30041
(770) 887-6801

office@deercreekpreschurch.org
www.deercreekpreschurch.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

** Please stand in body or in spirit*
(**Bold** = unison; ***Bold Italics*** = sung)

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS
CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

Rev. Dr. Short

*CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates, #93 v.3
Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Hardie, Liturgist

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us worship God. O come, let us sing to the Lord and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving, singing joyful songs of praise.

Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised!

*HYMN 263

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Short

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Short

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us

amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

SHARING THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

EPISTLE READING

Linda Hardie, Liturgist

Hebrews 2: 10-18

¹⁰ In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. ¹² He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.” ¹³ And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.” ¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them,^[e] fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

What Child Is This

Hymn #145

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Dr. Short

***HYMN 436**

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

GOSPEL LESSON

Rev. Dr. Short

Matthew 2: 13-23

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” ¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.” ¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸ “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” ¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰ and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Escape to Egypt”

Rev. Dr. Short

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)** Linda Hardie, Liturgist

We believe in giving what we have.

We believe actions of generosity change us.

We dare to believe the small acts can change the world.

We believe in a God, who is a miracle maker.

We believe in a God of good news.

We believe this good news is so good we cannot help but sing.

We believe there will be forces that try to silence what is just good, hopeful and generous.

We do not believe these voices will have the last word.

We believe at the end of the day, love will find a way.

We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.

-- Rev. Sara Are Speed, *A Sanctified Art*

***HYMN #581** (*Gloria Patri*)

Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen, Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
& THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Rev. Dr. Short

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Short



To make an offering online, scan this code or visit www.deercreekpreschurh.org. Thank you for your support.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Sudie LaPlue

PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

*OFFERTORY SONG

Hymn 606, 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.***

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Linda Hardie, Liturgist

Yours, O Lord, are grandeur and power, majesty, splendor, and glory. All in the heavens and on the earth is yours, and of your own we give you. **Amen.**

SENDING

*HYMN 462

I Love to Tell the Story

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Short

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymn #765

***May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives
with love and joy and peace.***

***May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and
hope to every land and race.***

***Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's
call.***

POSTLUDE



Flowers beautify the Sanctuary of our church and are a gift to God and those who attend our worship service. Giving flowers is a lovely way to remember someone or commemorate a special occasion. If you would like to sign up for a date to place flowers in the sanctuary during our service, please see the registration book in the fellowship hall.

IN MINISTRY TODAY – December 28, 2025

Liturgist: Linda Hardie

Greeters: Nancy & Jim Wilson

Counters: Linda Jackson & JoAnn Mulrey

Fellowship: **OPEN**

Flowers: **OPEN**

SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, January 4, 2026

Second Sunday of Christmas

Rev. Dr. Richard Short

IN MINISTRY – January 4, 2026

Liturgist: Ken Terry

Greeters: Linda Hardie & Nancy Tims

Counters: Linda Hardie & Rich Wilks

Fellowship: **OPEN**

Flowers: **OPEN**

If you would like to assist in any of the above capacities, please contact the church office or sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

THE SESSION

Diane Bandow (2025)

Don Wagner (2025)

Charlotte Dewberry (2026)

Jerry Scarborough (2026)

Ron Studd (2027)

Linda Jackson (2027)

Nancy Tims, Clerk of Session

Elders-Elect: Barbara Henry, Linda Oliveira

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Bridge Pastor: Rev. Dr. Richard Short

pastor@deercreekpreschurch.org

Church Administrator: office@deercreekpreschurch.org

Clerk of Session: Nancy Tims, clerk@deercreekpreschurch.org

Music Director: Sudie LaPlue, sudieplayspiano@gmail.com

Preschool Director: Lauren McNamara , 770-888-5101
deercreekpreschool@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN PRAYER

(Please review prayer list and notify the office of updates.)

Leslie Etherton, George Marks, Loretta Marks, Harriette Cady, Chantel Druivenga, Sudie LaPlue, Linda Oliveira, Wright Family, Don and Betty Shuman, Jerry and Linda Snowden, Reverend Sid Gunter, Isaac Bucks, Jim Wilson, Bobbye Wright, The family of Jim Byrd, Glenn Simpson, Maribell Rosario, Jackson Jebcoat, The Thambi Family, Tony Pritchett, Chip Jabaley

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS — Brenda Gossett (6th), Laura McGovern (6th), Barbara Henry (9th), Linda Oliveira (10th), Lauren McNamera (13th), Nancy Lee Nemerof (15th), Chris Reins (16th), Rich Neville (19th), Christy Glymph (20th), Gail Smith (22nd), Suzanne Vicente (22nd), Don Irwin (29th)

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES – John & JoAnn Mulrey (3rd), George & Loretta Marks (21st)

PRAYER REQUESTS—Please send all prayer requests to the church office at office@deercreekpreschurch.org.

Bulletin announcements due by Noon on Wednesday
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00am-1:00pm
If no one is present during these hours, phone
and email are monitored remotely.

THIS WEEK AT DEER CREEK SHORES

Sunday, December 28

10:00am – Adult Sunday School – Grace Cox Room

Wednesday, December 31

7:00pm – Choir

DATES TO REMEMBER

SHADY GROVE RV PARK - Thank you for your monthly contributions! Items especially needed for January are toilet paper, peanut butter and jelly, hamburger or tuna helper, canned meat

(tuna, chicken, beef stew, or chili), and canned vegetables. Additional items needed are cleaning supplies such as Spic & Span, multi-surface cleaner, sponges, Pine Sol, Palmolive, laundry detergent, disinfectant wipes, tall trash bags, paper towels; and personal care items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, disposable razors, band aids, Neosporin and Bactine spray. Please leave your donation in the Fellowship Hall by January 4th. Questions? Contact Linda Jackson at linda.s.jackson25@gmail.com.

PRESCHOOL CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK – Dec. 22nd – January 5th.



www.deercreekpreschurcho.org

7620 Lanier Dr
Cumming, GA 30041



Welcome to Deer Creek Shores!

We would love to connect with you! Consider signing the Friendship Pad found in the Pews. or checking in digitally this morning so we can follow up with you!

Join us LIVE on Facebook Sunday @ 11AM

FACEBOOK

Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church - Home

Connect and Catch up with us @ any time

Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church - YouTube

Membership at Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church

If you are reading this information in our Worship Bulletin, you already belong here at Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church. Here, all are welcome, and membership in the congregation is not required to participate in any of our activities and ministries. By becoming a member, you will have voice and vote in congregational meetings and can better express your commitment to Jesus Christ

through this church. Welcoming people as members helps us to get to know them better and to support you more fully – letting all of us stay engaged and grow in faith together. Individuals may join the church by Profession of Faith and Baptism (for those who have never been baptized), by Reaffirmation of Faith (for those who are not currently active members of another Christian church), or by Transfer of Church Letter (for those on the active role of another church.) Contact the office to find out more.

Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church – Priorities for 2025

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increase membership and participation through connecting with and serving those who reside in our community through enhanced community outreach. To include Youth and Preschool.2. Revitalize the Congregational Care Ministry within our church and congregation.3. Increase regular opportunities for the congregation to gather outside of worship for fellowship.4. Create policies including Child Protection, Sexual Harassment, Anti-Racism, as required by the Book of Order.5. Improve and develop leadership and communication skills for this church. |
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