



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

05/08/22

10:30am



No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

PRELUDE.....“If My People”

Dick Goins, organ

WELCOME.....Gina Hughes

HYMN.....“HYMN #530 God Our Author and Creator”



1 God our Author and Creator,
In whose life we find our own,
Make our daily witness greater,
By our lives make your love known.
Help us show how love embraces
Those whom fear and greet downtrend;
In all yearning hearts and faces
Let us see a child of God.

Like those first apostles, Savior,
Give us strength to love and serve:
When our fainting spirits waver,
Fire our hearts and steel our nerve.
Teach us wisdom and compassion:
Bid our restless thoughts be still;
By your guidance help us fashion
Lives conformed unto your will.

3 Keep us faithful, Holy Spirit,
Help us bear the message true.
That at last all lands may hear it:
“God is love; Christ died for you.”
Join our lives in mighty chorus
Till we come from every place,
With all those who went. Before us,
To the fullness of God’s grace.

GREETING OF OUR GUESTS.....Gina Hughes

OPENING REFLECTION....."A Merry Heart"

by Cynthia Dobrinski
Joyful Noise Bell Choir



JOYS AND CONCERNS.....Rev. Anna Taylor Sweringen

PRAYER.....Rev. Anna Taylor Sweringen

Acts 9:36-43

³⁶⁻³⁷ Down the road a way in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha, “Gazelle” in our language. She was well-known for doing good and helping out. During the time Peter was in the area she became sick and died. Her friends prepared her body for burial and put her in a cool room.

³⁸⁻⁴⁰ Some of the disciples had heard that Peter was visiting in nearby Lydda and sent two men to ask if he would be so kind as to come over. Peter got right up and went with them. They took him into the room where Tabitha’s body was laid out. Her old friends, most of them widows, were in the room mourning. They showed Peter pieces of clothing the Gazelle had made while she was with them. Peter put the widows all out of the room. He knelt and prayed. Then he spoke directly to the body: “Tabitha, get up.”

⁴⁰⁻⁴¹ She opened her eyes. When she saw Peter, she sat up. He took her hand and helped her up. Then he called in the believers and widows, and presented her to them alive.

⁴²⁻⁴³ When this became known all over Joppa, many put their trust in the Master. Peter stayed on a long time in Joppa as a guest of Simon the Tanner.

Hymn.....HYMN #530 “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant “

1 Won’t you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.

2 We are pilgrims on a journey
We are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other
Go the mile and bear the load.

4 I will weep when you are weeping,
When you laugh, I’ll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we’ve seen this journey through.

5 I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh, I’ll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we’ve seen this journey through.

—*Richard Gillard, 1977*

SERMON.....Rev. Anna Taylor Sweringen

PASTORAL PRAYER— SILENT PRAYER—

PRAYER OF JESUS

Our Father, Our Mother,
Who is in Heaven, Holy be Your name,
Your Kin(g)dom 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 do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,
For yours is the Kin(g)dom and the
Power and the glory,
Now and forever, Amen.

SHARING OUR GIFTS.....Gina Hughes

OFFERTORY“ Lydia ” by Fauré

Dave McElhaney, baritone;
Linda Gilmour, piano

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts.
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts.
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATIONGina Hughes

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY

CLOSING HYMN#495 "Called As Partners In Christ's Service"

1 Called as partners in Christ's service,
Called to ministries of grace.
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace
May we learn the art of sharing,
Side by side and friends with friend,
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfill God's chosen end.

2 Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth.
Let us follow, never faltering,
Reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
All God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold.

3 Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
In a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens
Breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
Words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action,
Make us colleagues, free and fair.

BENEDICTION.....Rev. Anna Taylor Sweringen

POSTLUDE....."Glorious Things of Thee are Spoke "

Dick Goins, organ



Bee Kind

Please Pray For

Brent Williams

BY : Carol Jordan

Healing

Penny McElhaney

BY: Carol Jordan

Healing

Thank you for joining us in worship today

Welcome!



We are delighted to have you worshipping with us today!

Church of the Good Shepherd, UCC is a dynamic congregation with a rich history and an exciting ministry in the community.

Our church is a part of a blend of four major Protestant denominations that united together in 1957 to form the United Church of Christ.

We claim the early Pilgrim and Puritan settlers of this country as part of our heritage, and celebrate the words of Pastor John Robinson, who in his farewell remarks to the Pilgrims as they were leaving for the “new world,” said,

“There is still more light and truth to break forth from God’s holy word.”

We are a church that:

- Takes the Bible seriously, but not literally.
- Worships God with joyful hearts and open minds.
- Includes children in the life and ministry of the church.
- Celebrates creativity and the arts.
- Seeks to be inclusive of ALL people.
- Believes that growth in wisdom and understanding happens at all stages of life.
- Is committed to work for justice for all people and for the environment.
- Cares for one another, laughs easily, and rests in God’s love.

Vision Statement

Church of the Good Shepherd desires to be an inclusive community that shares Divine love as a path to peace and justice in the world.

Mission Statement

The mission of Church of the Good Shepherd is to build a just world through community one life at a time.

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

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