



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

12/01/24

11:00am

HOPE

The Season of Advent



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

December 01, 2024

Worship Leader: SUSAN MACKENZIE

PRELUDE.....

WELCOME.....

HYMN #116 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” 1-3

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Child of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
and help us in that way to go. **[Refrain]**

3 O come, O come, O Adonai,
who came to all on Sinai high,
And from its peak a single law
proclaimed in majesty and awe. **[Refrain]**

OPENING REFLECTION.....

"The World in Solemn Stillness Lay" by Michael Ryan)
Joyful Noise Bell Choir

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....**SUSAN MACKENZIE**

Luke 1:26-38, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The young woman's name was Mary. **28** Gabriel came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! God is with you.” **29** But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might

be. **30** The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. **33** He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” **34** Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” **35** The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. **36** And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God.” **38** Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of God; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Isaiah 43:1-7, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

43 But now thus says God,
the One who created you, O Jacob,
the One who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
3 For I am your God,
the Holy One of your Ancestors, the One who saves.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.
4 Because you are precious in my sight
and honored and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
5 Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

6 I will say to the north, “Give them up,”
and to the south, “Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
7 everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”

Lucas 1:26-38, La Palabra (Hispanoamérica) **Anuncio del nacimiento de Jesús**

26 Al sexto mes, el ángel Gabriel fue enviado por Dios a Nazaret, un pueblo de Galilea, **27** a visitar a una joven virgen llamada María, que estaba prometida en matrimonio a José, un varón descendiente del rey David. **28** El ángel entró en el lugar donde estaba María y le dijo: — Alégrate, favorecida de Dios. El Señor está contigo.
29 María se quedó perpleja al oír estas palabras, preguntándose qué significaba aquel saludo. **30** Pero el ángel le dijo:— No tengas miedo, María, pues Dios te ha concedido su gracia. **31** Vas a quedar embarazada, y darás a luz un hijo, al cual pondrás por nombre Jesús. **32** Un hijo que será grande, será Hijo del Altísimo. Dios, el Señor, le entregará el trono de su antepasado David, **33** reinará **34** María replicó al ángel: — Yo no tengo relaciones conyugales con nadie; ¿cómo, pues, podrá sucederme esto? **35** El ángel le contestó: — El Espíritu Santo vendrá sobre ti y el poder del Dios Altísimo te envolverá. Por eso, el niño que ha de nacer será santo, será Hijo de Dios. **36** Mira, si no, a Elisabet, tu parienta: también ella va a tener un hijo en su ancianidad; la que consideraban estéril, está ya de seis meses, **37** porque para Dios no hay nada imposible. **38** María dijo: — Yo soy la esclava del Señor. Que él haga conmigo como dices. Entonces el ángel la dejó y se fue.

Isaías 43:1-7, La Palabra (Hispanoamérica)

43 Y ahora, así dice el Señor,
el que te ha creado, Jacob,
el que te ha formado, Israel:
No temas, que te he rescatado,

te llamo por tu nombre y eres mío.
2 Si cruzas las aguas estoy contigo,
si pasas por ríos no te hundirás;
si pisas ascuas no te quemarás,
la llama no te abrasará.

3 Pues yo soy el Señor, tu Dios,
el Santo de Israel, tu salvador.

Entregué a Egipto para rescatarte,
a Etiopía y Sabá en tu lugar,

4 pues eres precioso a mis ojos,
muy importante, y te quiero.

Entregaré tierras en tu lugar,
naciones por salvar tu vida.

5 No temas, que estoy contigo.
Traeré de oriente a tus hijos,
desde occidente te reuniré.

6 Al norte diré: “¡Dámelos!”,
y al sur: “¡No los retengas!”.

Trae a mis hijos desde lejos,
a mis hijas del confín de la tierra;

7 a los que son llamados con mi nombre,
a los que he creado para mi gloria,
a los que he formado y he hecho.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail,” said he, “O lowly maiden Mary.”
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

2 “For know a blessed mother you shall be,
All generations praise continually,
Your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.”
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
“To me be as it pleases God,” she said,
“My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name.”

Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

SERMON.....**Rev. Dr. Sarah Tevis Townes**

PASTORAL 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,
For yours is the Kin(g)dom and the
Power and the glory,
Now and forever, Amen.

SHARING OUR GIFTS.....

OFFERTORY.....

““In a Lowly Stable” by Richard Kidd
Mathena Page and Esther Moses

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 DEDICATION.....

CLOSING.....

HYMN # HYMN “In Case No One Ever Told You”

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN (“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”)

In case no one ever told you or you have forgotten

You are a blessing and have been since you were begotten

Fashioned from love

Sent to the earth from above

You’re nothing short of a godsend

You are the masterpiece born of God’s imagination

Even the parts that are crying out for restoration

All that you are

Born out of stardust and scars

Reflects God’s perfect creation

You are uniquely created for love and belonging

Forcing yourself to be someone you’re not is exhausting

You are a gift

There is no box you must fit

Let your belovedness blossom

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LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

BENEDICTION.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

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.
- Looks to Jesus as teacher, prophet and Child of God.

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