



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

01/05/25

11:00am



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

January 05, 2025

Worship Leader: Doug Longfield

PRELUDE.....

"How Great Our Joy! (While By Our Sheep), Tune: JUNGST, German Melody, arr. By Sandra Eithun
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WELCOME.....

HYMN #164 Arise Your Light is Come 1-4

1 Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God
Which shines on you today!

2 Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door,
Proclaim the captive's liberty,
Good tidings to the poor.

3 Arise, you light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken-heart-ed ones
And comfort those who mourn.

4 Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

*Contributors: Ruth Duck
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OPENING REFLECTION.....

"What Star Is This, with Beams so Bright), Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
Dorenda Morse, piano

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JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

Isaiah 43:16-21, New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition

Thus says God,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
17 who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down; they cannot rise;
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
18 Do not remember the former things
or consider the things of old.
19 I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
20 The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches,
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
21 the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

Matthew 2:1-12, New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." **3** When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, **4** and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: **6** 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

7 Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." 9 When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Isaías 43:16-21, La Palabra (Hispanoamérica)

16 Así dice el Señor

que abre un camino en el mar,
una senda en aguas caudalosas;

17 que pone en acción carros y caballos,
ejército y valientes a una:
caen para no levantarse,
se apagan, se extinguen como mecha.

18 No recuerden lo pasado,
no piensen en lo de antes.

19 Pues voy a hacer algo nuevo;
ya brota, ¿no lo sienten?

Abriré un camino en la estepa,
pondré arroyos en el desierto;

20 me honrarán las bestias del campo,
chacales y crías de avestruz.

Llenaré de agua la estepa,
pondré arroyos en el desierto
para que beba mi pueblo, mi elegido,

21 este pueblo que formé para mí;
él proclamará mi alabanza.

Mateo 2:1-12, La Palabra (Hispanoamérica)

2 Jesús nació en Belén un pueblo de Judea, durante el reinado de Herodes. Por entonces llegaron a Jerusalén, procedentes de Oriente, unos sabios,

2 que preguntaban:

— ¿Dónde está el rey de los judíos recién nacido? Nosotros hemos visto aparecer su estrella en el Oriente y venimos a adorarlo. **3** El rey Herodes se inquietó mucho cuando llegó esto a sus oídos, y lo mismo les sucedió a todos los habitantes de Jerusalén. **4** Así que ordenó que se reunieran los jefes de los sacerdotes y los maestros de la ley para averiguar por medio de ellos dónde había de nacer el Mesías. **5** Ellos le dieron esta respuesta:

— En Belén de Judá, porque así lo escribió el profeta:

6 Tú, Belén, en el territorio de Judá,
no eres en modo alguno la menor
entre las ciudades importantes de Judá,
pues de ti saldrá un caudillo
que guiará a mi pueblo Israel.

7 Entonces Herodes hizo llamar en secreto a los sabios para que le informaran con exactitud sobre el tiempo en que habían visto la estrella. **8** Luego los envió a Belén diciéndoles:

— Vayan allá y averigüen cuanto les sea posible acerca de ese niño. Y cuando lo hayan encontrado, háganmelo saber para que también yo vaya a adorarlo. **9** Los sabios, después de oír al rey, emprendieron de nuevo la marcha, y la estrella que habían visto en Oriente los guió hasta que se detuvo sobre el lugar donde estaba el niño. **10** Al ver la estrella, se llenaron de alegría. **11** Entraron entonces en la casa, vieron al niño con su madre María y, cayendo de rodillas, lo adoraron. Sacaron luego los tesoros que llevaban consigo y le ofrecieron oro, incienso y mirra. **12** Y advertidos por un sueño para que no volvieran adonde estaba Herodes, regresaron a su país por otro camino.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN “Home By Another Way” (Tune of “We Three Kings”)

1 Magi from a far-a-way place
Radiant star-light setting their pace
Fording wading, risking bo_dy
Seeking the king’s birthplace.

Refrain

O__ We have traveled night and day

Meeting God where-e'r we stay
Paths are changing, rearranging
As we find another way.

2 Threatened by the good news they bring
Herod plots to kill the new king
Angels warning in the morning:
“A-void Je-ru-sa-lem” **[Refrain]**

3 Plans that change and storms that delay
Dreams and hopes left in dis-ar-ray
Make us tremble, but re-mem_ber
There is a-noth-er way. **[Refrain]**

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,
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.....

OFFERTORY.....

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” arr. Mark Hayes
Mathena Page, solo; Dorenda Morse, piano
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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.....

COMMUNION.....

COMMUNION HYMN #349 I Come With Joy 1,3,4

1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
The life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

4 And thus we meet, and better know
the Presence, ever near,
And join our hearts and sing with joy
that Christ is risen here,
that Christ is risen here.

Contributors: Brian Wren

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LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

BENEDICTION.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

"March of the Kings," French Carol, arr. By Todd Beaney

Dorenda Morse, piano

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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.