



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

01/19/25

11:00am



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

January 19, 2025

Worship Leader: Doug Longfield

PRELUDE.....

“Pavane” by Fauré

Libbie Jo Snyder, flute; Linda Gilmour, piano

(Recorded in 2021)

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/w9ov49pza9hbb56pfj9e/Pavane-Faure-cropped.mp3?rlkey=n5elviyqpu15fn3570juh2utg&st=febmfxc&dl=0>

WELCOME.....

HYMN #593 Lift Every Voice and Sing 1,3

1 Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
God who has brought us thus far on the way;
God, who by your might, led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

OPENING REFLECTION.....

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart," TUNE: MORECAMBE,

by Frederick C. Atkinson, arr. By Mark Hayes

Dorenda Morse, piano

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JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

Acts 8:9-25, The Message

9-11 Previous to Philip’s arrival, a certain Simon had practiced magic in the city, posing as a famous man and dazzling all the Samaritans with his wizardry. He had them all, from little children to old folks, eating out of his hand. They all thought he had supernatural powers, and called him “the Great Wizard.” He had been around a long time and everyone was more or less in awe of him.

12-13 But when Philip came to town announcing the news of God’s kin(g)dom and proclaiming the name of Jesus Christ, they forgot Simon and were baptized, becoming believers right and left! Even Simon himself believed and was baptized. From that moment, he was like Philip’s shadow, so fascinated with all the God-signs and miracles that he wouldn’t leave Philip’s side.

14-17 When the apostles in Jerusalem received the report that Samaria had accepted God’s Message, they sent Peter and John down to pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit. Up to this point, they had only been baptized in the name of the Master Jesus; the Holy Spirit hadn’t yet fallen on them. Then the apostles laid their hands on them and they did receive the Holy Spirit.

18-19 When Simon saw that the apostles, by merely laying on hands, conferred the Spirit, he pulled out his money, excited, and said, “Sell me your secret! Show me how you did that! How much do you want? Name your price!”

20-23 Peter said, “To hell with your money! And you along with it. Why, that’s unthinkable—trying to buy God’s gift! You’ll never be part of what God is doing by striking bargains and offering bribes. Change your ways—and now! Ask God to forgive you for trying to use God to make money. I can see this is an old habit with you; you reek with money-lust.”

24 “Oh!” said Simon, “pray for me! Pray to God that nothing like that will ever happen to me!”

25 And with that, the apostles were on their way, continuing to witness and

spread the Message of God's salvation, preaching in every Samaritan town they passed through on their return to Jerusalem.

Hechos 8:9-25, La Palabra (Hispanoamérica)

9 Desde hacía tiempo, se encontraba en la ciudad un hombre llamado Simón, que practicaba la magia y tenía asombrada a toda la población de Samaría. Se las daba de persona importante **10** y gozaba de una gran audiencia tanto entre los pequeños como entre los mayores. “Ese hombre —decían— es la personificación del poder divino: eso que se llama el Gran Poder”. **11** Y lo escuchaban encandilados, porque durante mucho tiempo los había tenido asombrados con su magia. **12** Pero cuando Felipe les anunció el mensaje acerca del reino de Dios y de la persona de Jesucristo, hombres y mujeres abrazaron la fe y se bautizaron. **13** Incluso el propio Simón creyó y, una vez bautizado, ni por un momento se apartaba de Felipe; contemplaba los milagros y los portentosos prodigios que realizaba y no salía de su asombro.

14 Cuando los apóstoles que estaban en Jerusalén se enteraron de que Samaría había acogido favorablemente el mensaje de Dios, enviaron allá a Pedro y a Juan. **15** Llegaron estos y oraron por los samaritanos para que recibieran el Espíritu Santo, **16** pues aún no había descendido sobre ninguno de ellos; únicamente habían sido bautizados en el nombre de Jesús, el Señor. **17** Les impusieron, pues, las manos y recibieron el Espíritu Santo.

18 Al ver Simón que cuando los apóstoles imponían las manos se impartía el Espíritu, les ofreció dinero, **19** diciendo:

— Concédanme también a mí el poder de que, cuando imponga las manos a alguno, reciba el Espíritu Santo.

20 — ¡Al infierno tú y tu dinero! —le contestó Pedro—. ¿Cómo has podido imaginar que el don de Dios es un objeto de compraventa? **21** No es posible que recibas ni tengas parte en este don, pues Dios ve que tus intenciones son torcidas. **22** Arrepiéntete del mal que has hecho y pide al Señor que, si es posible, te perdone el haber abrigado tal pensamiento. **23** Veo que la envidia te corroe y la maldad te tiene encadenado.

24 Simón respondió:

— Oren por mí al Señor para que nada de lo que ustedes han dicho me

suceda.

25 Una vez que Pedro y Juan cumplieron su misión de testigos y proclamaron el mensaje del Señor, emprendieron el regreso a Jerusalén, anunciando de paso la buena noticia en muchas poblaciones samaritanas.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN ##292 Breathe on Me, Breath of God

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew
That I may love the way you love,
and do what you would do.

2 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
Until with you I will one will,
to do and to endure.

3 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
stir in me one desire:
That every earthly part of me
may glow with holy fire.

4 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
But live with you the perfect life
of your eternity.

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.....

**"My Way" by Thibaut - transl. Anka, Music by Revaux and Francois
Axel Catterall, solo; Dorenda Morse, 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 DEDICATION.....

CLOSING.....

CLOSING HYMN #294 There's a Spirit in the Air 1-4

1 There's a spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere:
"Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world."
2 Lose your shyness, find your tongue;
tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today.

3 When believers break the bread,
when a hungry child is fed;
Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.

4 Still the Spirit gives us light,
seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!

5 When a stranger's not alone,
where the homeless find a home;
Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.

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LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

BENEDICTION.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore thee," words by Henry Van Dyke, music by
Beethoven, , arr. By James Koerts
Dorenda Morse, piano

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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