



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



03/09/25

11:00am



lewp

No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.
March 09, 2025

Toward Jerusalem by Lauren Wright Pittman Inspired by Luke 9:51-62 Digital painting

The relationship between the Jews and Samaritans at the time of Jesus' ministry was defined by centuries of political upheaval resulting in foundational cultural and religious differences. Instead of centering Jerusalem as their religious and cultural hub, Samaritans built their temple on Mount Gerizim. I think that Jesus' unwavering focus on Jerusalem was a non-starter for the Samaritans. Perhaps feeling disrespected or even judged, the Samaritans were unable to receive Jesus. Their intention to remain faithful to their religious traditions made it difficult for them to embrace Jesus' message.

When James and John saw the Samaritans reject Jesus, they were enraged. It is certainly not difficult for me to imagine being triggered by people with different worldviews, as I find myself similarly dealing with lots of anger that is difficult to process. In their fury, James and John seek to call down a consuming fire from heaven upon the Samaritans, an action antithetical to their intention as disciples to follow the way of Jesus.

Jesus is central to this image, urgent in his stride, with his eyes set on Jerusalem at the horizon line. His clothing is patterned with doves and olive branches as he faces the city of peace. Behind him, James points accusingly at the Samaritans while John tugs on Jesus' garment. Their clothing holds patterns of fire raining down from heaven. In front of Jesus, a group of Samaritans are altogether unreceptive. Their clothing is patterned with Samaritan distinctions like mountains representing Mount Gerizim, and scrolls, stone tablets, and shapes in sets of five to reference the Pentateuch as their holy scripture.

What might trigger you toward unproductive rage or to resist the work God is doing in the world? How can we be resolute in our calling, like Jesus, despite distractions and adversity? What would it look like to align your actions with your intentions?

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

PRELUDE.....

Carol Red, piano

WELCOME.....

HYMN #32" God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale" 1,2,5,6

1 God of the sparrow God of the whale

God of the swirling stars

How does the creature say Awe

How does the creature say Praise

2 God of the earthquake God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature say Woe
How does the creature cry Save

5 God of the neighbor God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home.

Carl Schalk, Joel Martinson
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OPENING REFLECTION.....

What Wondrous Love Is This” arr. A.M Williams and Paul S Jones
Beth Purvis, cello; Linda Gilmour, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....Gina Sears

Luke 10:25-37, New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition

25 An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

26 He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?”

27 He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.”

28 And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

29 But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

30 Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead.

31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.

32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

33 But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion.

34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’

36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”

37 He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Lucas 10:25-37 Reina-Valera 1960

25 Y he aquí un intérprete de la ley se levantó y dijo, para probarle: Maestro, ¿haciendo qué cosa heredaré la vida eterna?

26 Él le dijo: ¿Qué está escrito en la ley? ¿Cómo lees?

27 Aquel, respondiendo, dijo: Amarás al Señor tu Dios con todo tu corazón, y con toda tu alma, y con todas tus fuerzas, y con toda tu mente; y a tu prójimo como a ti mismo.

28 Y le dijo: Bien has respondido; haz esto, y vivirás.

29 Pero él, queriendo justificarse a sí mismo, dijo a Jesús: ¿Y quién es mi prójimo?

30 Respondiendo Jesús, dijo: Un hombre descendía de Jerusalén a Jericó, y cayó en manos de ladrones, los cuales le despojaron; e hiriéndole, se fueron, dejándole medio muerto.

31 Aconteció que descendió un sacerdote por aquel camino, y viéndole, pasó de largo.

32 Asimismo un levita, llegando cerca de aquel lugar, y viéndole, pasó de largo.

33 Pero un samaritano, que iba de camino, vino cerca de él, y viéndole, fue movido a misericordia;

34 y acercándose, vendó sus heridas, echándoles aceite y vino; y poniéndole en su cabalgadura, lo llevó al mesón, y cuidó de él.

35 Otro día al partir, sacó dos denarios, y los dio al mesonero, y le dijo: Cuídamele; y todo lo que gastes de más, yo te lo pagaré cuando regrese.

36 ¿Quién, pues, de estos tres te parece que fue el prójimo del que cayó en manos de los ladrones? **37** Él dijo: El que usó de misericordia con él. Entonces Jesús le dijo: Ve, y haz tú lo mismo.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #309 We Are Your People 1,2,3,6

1 We are your people,
Spirit of grace,
you dare to make us
Christ to our neighbors
of every culture and place.

2 Joined in community,

treasured and fed,
may we discover
gifts in each other,
willing to lead and be led.

3 Rich in diversity,
help us to live
closer than neighbors,
open to strangers,
able to clash and forgive.

6 Spirit, unite us,
make us, by grace,
willing and ready,
Christ's living body,
loving the whole human race.

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SERMON.....Dr. Rev. Sarah TevisTownes

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.....

“O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”
arr. A.M Williams and Paul S Jones
Beth and Linda

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 “I Saw A Stranger”

To the Tune of KINGSFOLD

NEIGHBOR:

I saw a stranger on the road in need of help and care

No clues to their identity, just human flesh laid bare

A thought had fluttered through my mind: “Is this one of my own?”

My tribal mind made me forget that they’re bone of my bone

STRANGER:

I laid there desperate by the road in need of help and care

As one by one they passed me by, too busy or too scared

Then one approached and my first thought was “Do they mean me harm?”

To my surprise they met my eyes and held me in their arms

BOTH:

In our embrace the memory returned from Eden’s dust

Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, my kin whom I can trust

The artificial walls we build around the tribes we claim

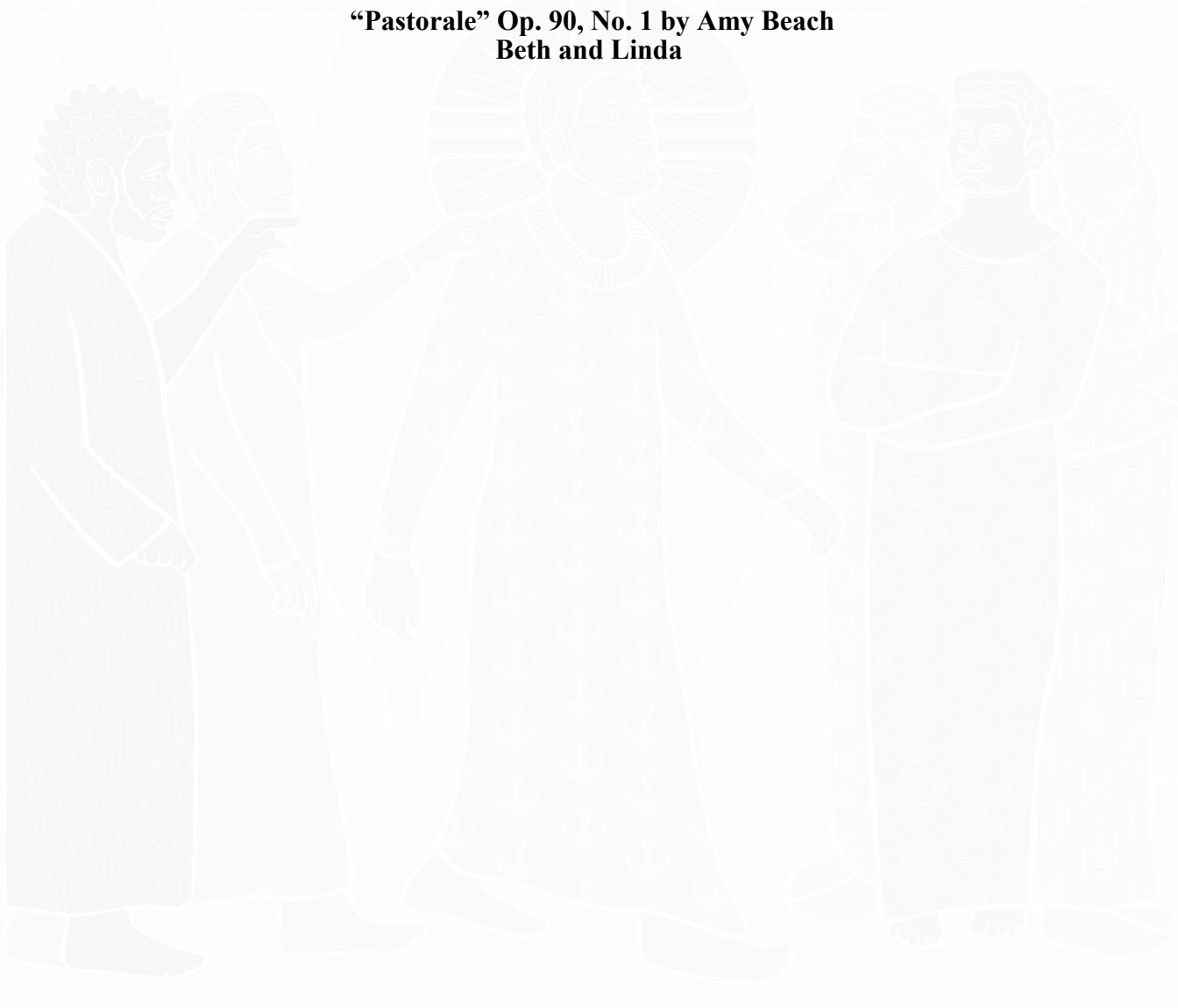
Make us forget the gospel truth: “Beloved” is your name

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

BENEDICTION.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

**“Pastorale” Op. 90, No. 1 by Amy Beach
Beth and Linda**



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.