

This is the day
that the



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

04/27/25

11:00am

Lord has
made;
Let
us **Rejoice**
and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

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

April 27, 2025

Worship Leader: SUSAN MACKENZIE

PRELUDE.....

Suite No. 1 in G major, BWV 1007 - J.S. Bach I. Prelude. Beth Purvis, cello

WELCOME.....

HYMN #407 How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foundation for you has been laid,

by God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!

What more can God say than to you has been said,

to you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,

for I am your God, and will still give you aid;

I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand

upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand."

3 "When through the deep waters I call you to go,

the rivers of woe shall not over you flow;

For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,

delivering you from your deepest distress."

OPENING REFLECTION.....

"Après un rêve" - Gabriel Fauré

Beth Purvis and Linda Gilmour

PRAYER.....

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

Excerpts from Psalm 118, adapted from *The Message*

Pushed to the wall, I called to God;

from the wide open spaces, God answered.

God's now at my side and I'm not afraid;

who would dare lay a hand on me

when God grabbed and held me?

God is my strength, my song,
and my salvation.

I didn't die. I lived!

And now I'm telling the world what God did.

God tested me, God pushed me hard,
but God didn't hand me over to Death.

Thank you for responding to me, God;
you've truly become my salvation!

The stone the masons rejected
is now the cornerstone!

This is the day that God has made—
let us rejoice and be glad in it!
Oh yes, in God—a free and full life!

You're my God, and I thank you.

O my God, I lift high your praise.

Thank God—God's so good.

His love endures forever!

John 20:19-29, adapted from The Message

19-20 Later on that first Easter day, the disciples had gathered together, but fearful, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side. 20-21 The disciples, seeing the Teacher with their own eyes, were awestruck. Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as God our Heavenly Parent sent me, I send you." 22-23 Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. "If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, you hold onto them. What are you going to do with them?" 24-25 But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the

Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, “We saw the Teacher!” But he said, “Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won’t believe it.” 26 Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.” 27 Then he focused his attention on Thomas. “Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don’t be unbelieving. Believe.” 28 Thomas said, “My Teacher! My God!” 29 Jesus said, “So, you trust because you’ve seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who trust without seeing.”

Extractos del Salmo 118, adaptados de The Message

Empujado contra la pared, llamé a Dios; desde los amplios espacios abiertos, Dios respondió. Ahora Dios está a mi lado y no tengo miedo; ¿quién se atrevería a ponerme una mano encima cuando Dios me agarró y me sostuvo? Dios es mi fuerza, mi canción y mi salvación. No he muerto. Viví. Y ahora le cuento al mundo lo que Dios hizo. Dios me puso a prueba, Dios me empujó con fuerza, pero Dios no me entregó a la Muerte. Gracias por responderme, Dios; ¡te has convertido realmente en mi salvación! ¡La piedra que rechazaron los albañiles es ahora la piedra angular! Este es el día que Dios ha hecho: alegrémonos y regocijémonos en él. Oh, sí, en Dios: ¡una vida libre y plena! Tú eres mi Dios, y te doy gracias. Oh Dios mío, elevo en alto tu alabanza. Gracias a Dios-Dios es tan bueno. Su amor es eterno.

Juan 20:19-29, adaptado de The Message

19-20 Más tarde, aquel primer día de Pascua, los discípulos se habían reunido, pero, temerosos, habían cerrado todas las puertas de la casa. Jesús entró, se puso en medio de ellos y les dijo: «Paz a vosotros». Luego les mostró las manos y el costado. 20-21 Los discípulos, al ver al Maestro con sus propios ojos, quedaron estupefactos. Jesús repitió su saludo: «Paz a vosotros. Así como Dios, nuestro Padre Celestial, me envió a mí, yo os envío a vosotros». 22-23 Luego respiró hondo y sopló en ellos. «Recibid el Espíritu

Santo», les dijo. «Si perdonáis los pecados a alguien, se van para siempre. Si no perdonas los pecados, los retienes. ¿Qué vas a hacer con ellos?». 24-25 Pero Tomás, llamado a veces el Mellizo, uno de los Doce, no estaba con ellos cuando vino Jesús. Los otros discípulos le dijeron: «¡Hemos visto al Maestro!». Pero él dijo: «Si no veo los agujeros de los clavos en sus manos, no meto mi dedo en los agujeros de los clavos y no meto mi mano en su costado, no lo creeré.» 26 Ocho días después, sus discípulos estaban de nuevo en la habitación. Esta vez Tomás estaba con ellos. Jesús atravesó las puertas cerradas, se puso en medio de ellos y les dijo: «Paz a vosotros». 27 Luego centró su atención en Tomás. «Toma tu dedo y examina mis manos. Toma tu mano y métela en mi costado. No seas incrédulo. Cree». 28 Tomás dijo: «¡Maestro mío! Dios mío!» 29 Jesús dijo: «Así que confías porque has visto con tus propios ojos. Bendiciones aún mejores les esperan a los que confían sin ver.»

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #256 We Live By Faith And Not By Sight

1 We live by faith and not by sight;

no gracious words we hear

From Christ who spoke as none e'er spoke,

who still we know is near.

2 We may not touch Christ's hands and side,

nor follow where Christ trod;

but in confessing we rejoice:

our Savior and our God!

3 Help then, O Christ, our unbelief;

and may our faith abound

To call on you when you are near

and seek where you are found:

4 That, when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light

We may behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

SERMON.....Rev. Dr. 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.....

“Siciliéne” Op. 78 - Gabriel Fauré. Beth Purvis and Linda Gilmour

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 #403 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' love and righteousness;
I dare not trust this earthly frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

**On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.**

2 When shadows veil my Savior's face,
I rest upon unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. **[Refrain]**

BENEDICTION.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

**“Suite No. 1 in G major, BWV 1007 - J.S. Bach
VI. Gigue. Beth Purvis, cello**

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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.