

"AND SINCE GOD GAVE
THESE GENTILES THE SAME
GIFT HE GAVE US WHEN WE
BELIEVED IN THE LORD
JESUS CHRIST,
WHO WAS I TO STAND
IN GOD'S WAY?"
ACTS 11:17



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

05/18/25

11:00am



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

May 18, 2025

Worship Leader: Judith Newby

PRELUDE.....

**"Change My Heart, O God," by Eddie Espinosa, arr. By Joel Raney
Dorenda Morse, piano**

WELCOME.....

HYMN #293 "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place" 1,2

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place

And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;

There are sweet expressions on each face

And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

[Refrain]

Sweet Holy Spirit,

Sweet heavenly Dove,

Stay right here with us

Filling us with your love;

And for these blessings

We lift our hearts in praise.

Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived

When we shall leave this place.

2 There are blessing you cannot receive

Till you know that spirit's fullness and believe;

You're the one to profit when you say,

"I am going to stay with Jesus all the way." **[Refrain]**

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OPENING REFLECTION.....

"De Colores" arr. Vincente Chavarria Chancel Choir

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....Judith Newby

Acts 11, adapted from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

11 Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the Jewish believers criticized him, 3 saying, “Why did you go to non-Jewish men and eat with them?” 4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 5 “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. 6 As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ 8 But I replied, ‘By no means, Sir, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ 9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call unclean.’ 10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. 11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where I was staying with Simon the Tanner. 12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. Six brothers in the faith also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. 13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; 14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of Jesus, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ 17 If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in the way of God?” 18 When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

Hechos 11, adaptado de la Nueva Versión Estándar Revisada Edición Actualizada

11 Los apóstoles y los hermanos que estaban en Judea se enteraron de que también los

gentiles habían aceptado la palabra de Dios. 2 Así que cuando Pedro subió a Jerusalén, los creyentes judíos lo criticaron, 3 diciendo: «¿Por qué te acercaste a hombres no judíos y comiste con ellos?» 4 Entonces Pedro comenzó a explicárselo, paso a paso, diciendo: 5 «Estaba en la ciudad de Jope orando, y en un trance tuve una visión. Había algo parecido a una gran sábana que bajaba del cielo, bajada por sus cuatro esquinas, y se acercaba a mí. 6 Al mirarla de cerca, vi cuadrúpedos, animales de rapiña, reptiles y aves del cielo. 7 También oí una voz que me decía: «Levántate, Pedro; mata y come». 8 Yo le respondí: «De ninguna manera, señor, porque nunca ha entrado en mi boca nada impuro ni inmundo». 9 Pero por segunda vez la voz respondió desde el cielo: «Lo que Dios ha hecho limpio, no lo llares impuro. 10 Esto sucedió tres veces; luego todo fue elevado de nuevo al cielo. 11 En aquel mismo momento llegaron a la casa donde yo estaba con Simón el Curtidor tres hombres que me habían enviado de Cesarea. 12 El Espíritu me dijo que fuera con ellos y que no hiciera distinción entre ellos y nosotros. Me acompañaron también seis hermanos en la fe, y entramos en casa de aquel hombre. 13 Nos contó cómo había visto al ángel que estaba en su casa y le decía: 'Envía a Jope y trae a Simón, que se llama Pedro; 14 él te dará un mensaje por el que tú y toda tu casa os salvaréis'. 15 Cuando empecé a hablar, el Espíritu Santo cayó sobre ellos como había caído sobre nosotros al principio. 16 Y me acordé de la palabra de Jesús, que había dicho: «Juan bautizó con agua, pero vosotros seréis bautizados con el Espíritu Santo. 17 Si, pues, Dios les concedió el mismo don que nos concedió a nosotros cuando creímos en Jesucristo, ¿quién era yo para interponerme en el camino de Dios?» 18 Al oír esto, enmudecieron. Y alababan a Dios, diciendo: «Entonces Dios ha dado incluso a los gentiles el arrepentimiento que lleva a la vida.»

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #63 “Holy Spirit, Truth Divine” 1-4

1 Holy Spirit, truth divine,
dawn upon this soul of mine.
Voice of God and inward light,

wake my spirit from its night.

2 Holy Spirit, love divine,
glow within this heart of mine.
Kindle every high desire,
purify me with your fire.

3 Holy Spirit, power divine,
fill and nerve this will of mine.
Boldly may I always live,
bravely serve, and gladly give.

4 Holy Spirit, law divine,
reign within this soul of mine.
Be my law, and I shall be
firmly bound, forever free.

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.....

**“Do Lord, Remember Me” traditional spiritual, arr. Susan T. (Nelson) Sylvester
Bell Quartet**

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 #401 “O God in Whom All Life Begins” 1-3

1 O God in whom all life begins,

who births the seed to fruit,

bestow your blessing on our lives;

here let your love find root.

Bring forth in us the Spirit’s gifts

of patience, joy, and peace;

deliver us from numbing fear,

and grant our faith increase.

2 Unite in mutual ministry

our minds and hands and hearts

that we may have the grace to seek

the power your peace imparts.

So let our varied gifts combine

to glorify your Name
that in all things by word and deed
we may your love proclaim.
3 Through tears and laughter, grief and joy,
enlarge our trust and care;
so bind us in community
that we may risk and dare.
Be with us when we gather here
to worship, sing, and pray,
then send us forth in power and faith
to live the words we say.

BENEDICTION.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

**“"O Worship the King," by Johann Michael Haydn, Tune: LYONS, arr.
By Charity Book Putnam
Dorenda Morse, piano**

Prayer Request

Please pray for Julia for healing. Requested by Julia

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Thank you for joining us in worship today

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 vibrant ministry in the community. Our church is a part of a blend of five major Protestant denominations that united together in 1957 to form the United Church of Christ: Congregational, Christian, Afro-Christian, German Evangelical and Reformed. We 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 say at our church that "God is still speaking!" "There is still more light and truth to break forth from God's holy word."

- We are a church that:
 - Centers our faith and practice in the life and ministry Jesus Christ.
 - Takes the Bible seriously, not literally.
 - Builds community partnerships across differences.
 - Worships God with joyful hearts and open minds.
 - Includes children in the life and ministry of the church.
 - Celebrates creativity and the arts.
 - Encounters Christ in Creation, community, sacraments, music, scripture, and service.
 - Listens and responds to the movement of the Holy Spirit.
 - Celebrates an open table and seeks to be inclusive of ALL people.
 - Seeks to live out our faith in the world as we build God's reign of love and justice on earth.
 - Believes that growth in wisdom and understanding happens at all stages of life.
 - Embraces solidarity, not just charity.
 - 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.

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.