



CHURCH OF THE  
**GOOD SHEPHERD**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

08/03/25

11:00am



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

***August 03, 2025***

**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.

**OPENING REFLECTION.....**

**“As the Deer” with “Fairest Lord Jesus arr. Mark Hayes. Linda Gilmour, piano**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS.....**

**PRAYER.....**

**SCRIPTURE.....Betty Davis**

All Scriptures are taken from the NLT translation

**Genesis 29:31-35**

**31** When the Lord saw that Leah was unloved, he enabled her to have children, but

Rachel could not conceive. 32 So Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben, [a] for she said, “The Lord has noticed my misery, and now my husband will love me.” 33 She soon became pregnant again and gave birth to another son. She named him Simeon, [b] for she said, “The Lord heard that I was unloved and has given me another son.” 34 Then she became pregnant a third time and gave birth to another son. He was named Levi, [c] for she said, “Surely this time my husband will feel affection for me, since I have given him three sons!” 35 Once again Leah became pregnant and gave birth to another son. She named him Judah, [d] for she said, “Now I will praise the Lord!” And then she stopped having children.

### **Matthew 6:26-34**

26 Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? 27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? 28 “And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, 29 yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. 30 And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith? 31 “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. 33 Seek the Kingdom of God [a] above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. 34 “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

### **Luke 14:7-14**

7 When Jesus noticed that all who had come to the dinner were trying to sit in the seats of honor near the head of the table, he gave them this advice: 8 “When you are invited to a wedding feast, don’t sit in the seat of honor. What if someone who is more distinguished than you has also been invited? 9 The host will come and say, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then you will be embarrassed, and you will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table! 10 “Instead, take the lowest place at the foot of the table. Then when your host sees you, he will come and say, ‘Friend, we have a better place for you!’ Then you will be honored in front of all the other guests. 11 For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” 12 Then he turned to his host. “When you put on a luncheon or a banquet,” he said, “don’t invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward. 13 Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. 14 Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you.”

## Esther 4

When Mordecai learned about all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on burlap and ashes, and went out into the city, crying with a loud and bitter wail. 2 He went as far as the gate of the palace, for no one was allowed to enter the palace gate while wearing clothes of mourning. 3 And as news of the king's decree reached all the provinces, there was great mourning among the Jews. They fasted, wept, and wailed, and many people lay in burlap and ashes.

4 When Queen Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her about Mordecai, she was deeply distressed. She sent clothing to him to replace the burlap, but he refused it. 5 Then Esther sent for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs who had been appointed as her attendant. She ordered him to go to Mordecai and find out what was troubling him and why he was in mourning. 6 So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the square in front of the palace gate.

7 Mordecai told him the whole story, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. 8 Mordecai gave Hathach a copy of the decree issued in Susa that called for the death of all Jews. He asked Hathach to show it to Esther and explain the situation to her. He also asked Hathach to direct her to go to the king to beg for mercy and plead for her people. 9 So Hathach returned to Esther with Mordecai's message.

10 Then Esther told Hathach to go back and relay this message to Mordecai: 11 "All the king's officials and even the people in the provinces know that anyone who appears before the king in his inner court without being invited is doomed to die unless the king holds out his gold scepter. And the king has not called for me to come to him for thirty days." 12 So Hathach [a] gave Esther's message to Mordecai.

13 Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: "Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. 14 If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?" 15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:

16 "Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die." 17 So Mordecai went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

**A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....**

**HYMN #11 “Bring Many Names” 1,2,3,6**

**1** Bring many names, beautiful and good,  
celebrate, in parable and story,  
holiness in glory, living, loving God.  
Hail and Hosanna! bring many names!

**2** Strong mother God, working night and day,  
planning all the wonders of creation,  
setting each equation, genius at play:  
Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!

**3** Warm father God, hugging every child,  
feeling all the strains of human living,  
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:  
Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!

**6** Great, living God, never fully known,  
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,  
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:  
Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!

**SERMON.....Rev Daniel Headley**

**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.....**

**“I Wonder As I Wander” by John Jacob Niles. Dave McElhaney, Baritone**

**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 HYMN #547 Amazing Grace 1,4,5**

**1** Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

**4** My God has promised good to me,  
whose word my hope secures;  
God will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

**5** When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

**COMMUNION.....**

**LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....**

**BENEDICTION.....**

**CLOSING REFLECTION.....**

**“Celebration” by Melody Bober. Linda Gilmour, piano**

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“God of the Sparrow”

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“Bring Many Names”

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“Celebration”

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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.***