



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

08/10/25

11:00am

FOR WHERE
two or three
GATHER
IN MY NAME
There I am
with them
MATTHEW 18:20

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

August 10, 2025

WELCOME.....

HYMN #170 “Your Ways Are Not Our Own” 1-4

1 Your ways are not our own,
O gracious God most high,
Yet we would follow in your paths
And on your love rely.

2 Christ teaches us to bless
The ones who curse and harm,
To turn the other cheek when struck
Attackers to disarm.

3 Yet, we cannot excuse
Abuse in any form,
For all are children of your care
And love must be our norm.

4 How shall we show your love,
Your pardon to believe?
You bid us share as we are blessed
and give as we receive.

OPENING REFLECTION.....

“Home” by Ola Gjeilo. Linda Gilmour, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....Betty Davis

Matthew 18:15-35, adapted from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

15 “If your sibling sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. 16 But if you are not listened

to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my God in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

21 Then Peter came and said to him, “Sir, if my sibling sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

23 “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, 25 and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ 29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ 34 And in anger his lord handed

him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.³⁵ So my heavenly God will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister or sibling from your heart.”

Mateo 18:15-35, adaptado de la Nueva Versión Estándar Revisada, Edición Actualizada

15 “Si tu hermano peca contra ti, ve y repréndele la falta cuando estén solos. Si te escuchan, lo habrás recuperado. 16 Pero si no te escuchan, lleva contigo a uno o dos más, para que toda palabra sea confirmada por el testimonio de dos o tres testigos. 17 Si esa persona se niega a escucharlos, dilo a la iglesia; y si el ofensor se niega a escuchar incluso a la iglesia, que lo consideres como un gentil y un recaudador de impuestos. 18 De cierto les digo que todo lo que ates en la tierra quedará atado en el cielo, y todo lo que desates en la tierra quedará desatado en el cielo. 19 De nuevo les digo que si dos de ustedes se ponen de acuerdo en la tierra sobre cualquier cosa que pidan, les será concedida por mi Dios en el cielo. 20 Porque donde dos o tres están reunidos en mi nombre, allí estoy yo en medio de ellos.” 21 Entonces Pedro se acercó y le dijo: «Señor, si mi hermano peca contra mí, ¿cuántas veces debo perdonar? ¿Hasta siete?». 22 Jesús le respondió: «No siete veces, sino setenta y siete veces».

23 «Por eso, el reino de los cielos se asemeja a un rey que quiso ajustar cuentas con sus siervos. 24 Al comenzar a hacer cuentas, le presentaron a uno que le debía diez mil talentos. 25 Y como no podía pagar, el señor ordenó que lo vendieran, junto con su esposa, sus hijos y todas sus posesiones, y que se le pagara. 26 Entonces el siervo se arrojó ante él, diciendo: «Ten paciencia conmigo, y te lo pagaré todo». 27 Y, compadecido, el señor de aquel siervo lo liberó y le perdonó la deuda. 28 Pero ese mismo esclavo, al salir, se encontró con uno de sus consiervos que le debía cien denarios, y agarrándolo por el cuello, le dijo: «Paga lo que debes». 29 Entonces su compañero, postrándose, le suplicó: «Ten paciencia conmigo, y te lo pagaré». 30 Pero él se negó; entonces fue y lo echó en la cárcel hasta que pagara la deuda. 31 Al ver sus consiervos

lo sucedido, se angustiaron mucho y fueron a contarle a su señor todo lo sucedido. 32 Entonces su señor lo mandó llamar y le dijo: «¡Esclavo malvado! Te perdoné toda esa deuda porque me suplicaste». 33 ¿No debías tú también tener misericordia de tu compañero, como yo tuve misericordia de ti? 34 Y enojado, su señor lo entregó a tormento hasta que pagara toda su deuda. 35 Así también mi Dios celestial hará con ustedes si no perdonan de corazón a su hermano sus ofensas.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #396 Where Charity and Love Prevail 1,2,3

1 Where charity and love prevail

There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ’s love,
By love are we thus bound.

2 With grateful joy and holy fear

True charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and strength
Now love Christ in return.

3 Forgive we now each other’s faults

As we our faults confess;
And let us love each other

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.....

“Prayer of St. Francis” by Allen Pote. Axel Catterall, solo

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 #393 Blessed Be the Tie That Binds 1-3

1 Blessed be the tie that binds

our hearts in Christian love;

the sharing of a common life

is like to that above.

2 Before our God we come
and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

3 We share each other's woes,
Each other's burdens bear.
And often for each other flows
a sympathizing tear.

COMMUNION.....

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

BENEDICTION.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

“Stargazer” by Melody Bober. Linda Gilmour, piano

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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.