



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

08/17/25

11:00am



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

August 17, 2025

WELCOME.....

HYMN #1 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 1,2,3

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes.

Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 Your life is life-giving - to both great and small;
in all life you're living, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,
then wither and perish - but naught dims your powers.

OPENING REFLECTION.....

“Blessed Assurance” arr. Linda R. Lamb. Michelle Sault, Bell Tree

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....Betty Davis

2 Samuel 12:1-12, the Message

12 1-3 God was not at all pleased with what David had done, and sent Nathan to David. Nathan said to him, “There were two men in the same city—one rich, the other poor. The rich man had huge flocks of sheep, herds of cattle. The poor man had nothing but one little female lamb, which he had bought and raised. It grew up with him and his children as a member of the family. It ate off his plate and drank from his cup and slept on his bed. It was like a daughter to him.

4 “One day a traveler dropped in on the rich man. He was too stingy to take an animal from his own herds or flocks to make a meal for his visitor, so he took the poor man’s lamb and prepared a meal to set before his guest.”

5-6 David exploded in anger. “As surely as God lives,” he said to Nathan, “the man who did this ought to be killed! He must repay for the lamb four times over for his crime and his stinginess!”

7-12 “You are that man!” said Nathan. “And here’s what God, the God of Israel, has to say to you: I made you king over Israel. I freed you from the fist of Saul. I gave you your master’s daughter and other wives to have and to hold. I gave you both Israel and Judah. And if that hadn’t been enough, I’d have gladly thrown in much more. So why have you treated the word of God with brazen contempt, doing this great evil? You murdered Uriah the Hittite, then took his wife as your wife. Worse, you killed him with an Ammonite sword! And now, because you treated God with such contempt and took Uriah the Hittite’s wife as your wife, killing and murder will continually plague your family. This is God speaking, remember! I’ll make trouble for you out of your own family. I’ll take your wives from right out in front of you. I’ll give them to some neighbor, and he’ll go to bed with them openly. You did your deed in secret; I’m doing mine with the whole country watching!”

13 Then David confessed to Nathan, “I’ve sinned against God.”

Nathan pronounced, “Yes, but that’s not the last word.

2 Samuel 12:1-12, la Biblia al Día

12 1-3 Dios no estaba nada contento con lo que David había hecho, y envió a Natán a David. Natán le dijo: «Había dos hombres en la misma ciudad: uno rico, el otro pobre. El rico tenía enormes rebaños de ovejas y ganado. El pobre no tenía más que una corderita, que había comprado y criado. Creció con él y sus hijos como un miembro más de la familia. Comía de su plato, bebía de su copa y dormía en su cama. Era como una

hija para él.

4 «Un día, un viajero se acercó al hombre rico. Era demasiado tacaño para tomar un animal de sus propios rebaños para prepararle comida a su visitante, así que tomó la corderita del pobre y preparó una comida para su invitado». 5-6 David estalló en ira.

«¡Tan cierto como que Dios vive —le dijo a Natán— que el hombre que hizo esto debe ser asesinado! ¡Debe pagar el cordero cuatro veces por su crimen y su tacañería!»

7-12 «¡Tú eres ese hombre! —dijo Natán—. Y esto es lo que Dios, el Dios de Israel, tiene que decirte: Yo te hice rey sobre Israel. Te libré del puño de Saúl. Te di la hija de tu amo y otras esposas para que las tuvieras y las mantuvieras. Te di a Israel y a Judá. Y si eso no hubiera sido suficiente, con gusto habría añadido mucho más. Entonces, ¿por qué has tratado la palabra de Dios con descarado desprecio, cometiendo este gran mal? Asesinaste a Urías el hitita, luego tomaste a su esposa como tu esposa. Peor aún, ¡lo mataste con una espada amonita! Y ahora, por haber menospreciado a Dios y haber tomado a la esposa de Urías el hitita como esposa, la muerte y el asesinato plagarán continuamente a tu familia. ¡Recuerda, Dios te habla! Te causaré problemas con tu propia familia. Tomaré a tus esposas delante de ti. Se las daré a algún vecino, y él se acostará con ellas abiertamente. ¡Tú hiciste lo que hiciste en secreto; yo hago lo que hago ante todo el país!

13 Entonces David le confesó a Natán: «He pecado contra Dios».

Natán respondió: «Sí, pero esa no es la última palabra».

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #14 “How Can I Say Thanks”

[Verse]

How can I say thanks

For the things you have done for me?

Things so undeserved,

Yet you gave to prove your love for me;
The voices of a million angels
Could not express my gratitude.
All that I am,
And ever hope to be;
I owe it all to you.

[Refrain 1]

To God be the glory,
To God be the glory,
To God be the glory
For the things you have done,

[Refrain 2]

With your love you have saved me;
With your power you have raised me;
To God be the glory
For the things you have done.

[Bridge]

Just let me live my life
Let it be pleasing unto you;
And if I gain any praise,
Let it go to glorify you. [Refrain 2]

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.....

“You Are My Hiding Place” by Ledner arr. Hayes. Carol Red, piano

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 #2 Glory, Glory, Hallelujah 1,2,3

1 Glory, glory hallelujah,

since I laid my burdens down.

Glory, glory hallelujah,

since I laid my burdens down.

2 I feel better, so much better,
since I laid my burdens down.

I feel better, so much better,
since I laid my burdens down.

3 Feel like shouting, “Hallelujah!”
since I laid my burdens down.
Feel like shouting, “Hallelujah!”
since I laid my burdens down.

CLOSING

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

BENEDICTION.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

“The Solid Rock” by William Bradbury, arr. Mark Hayes. Carol Red, piano

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“Blessed Assurance”

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“Glory, Glory, Hallelujah”

Joyce Finch Johnson

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“The Solid Rock” Contributors: Mark Hayes

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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.