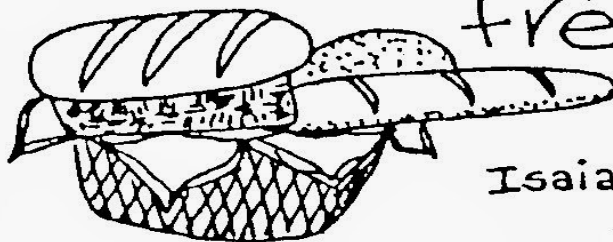




CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



I
want you
to share your
Bread
with the
Hungry,
open your homes
to the homeless
Poor,
Remove the
yoke of
injustice,
Let the
oppressed go
free.



Isaiah: 58

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

August 24, 2025

WELCOME.....

HYMN ##403 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less 1,2,3

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]**

3 Christ's oath and covenant and love
support me in the rising flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
Christ then is all my hope and stay. **[Refrain]**

OPENING REFLECTION.....

“Pastorale” for Violincello and Piano; Op. 90, No. 1, by Amy Beach. Beth Purvis, cello; Linda Gilmour, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....

Betty Davis

2 Samuel 12:1-12, the Message

Isaiah 58, adapted from the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition

1 Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their misdeeds.

2 Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

3 “Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

4 You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

5 Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to God?

6 Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

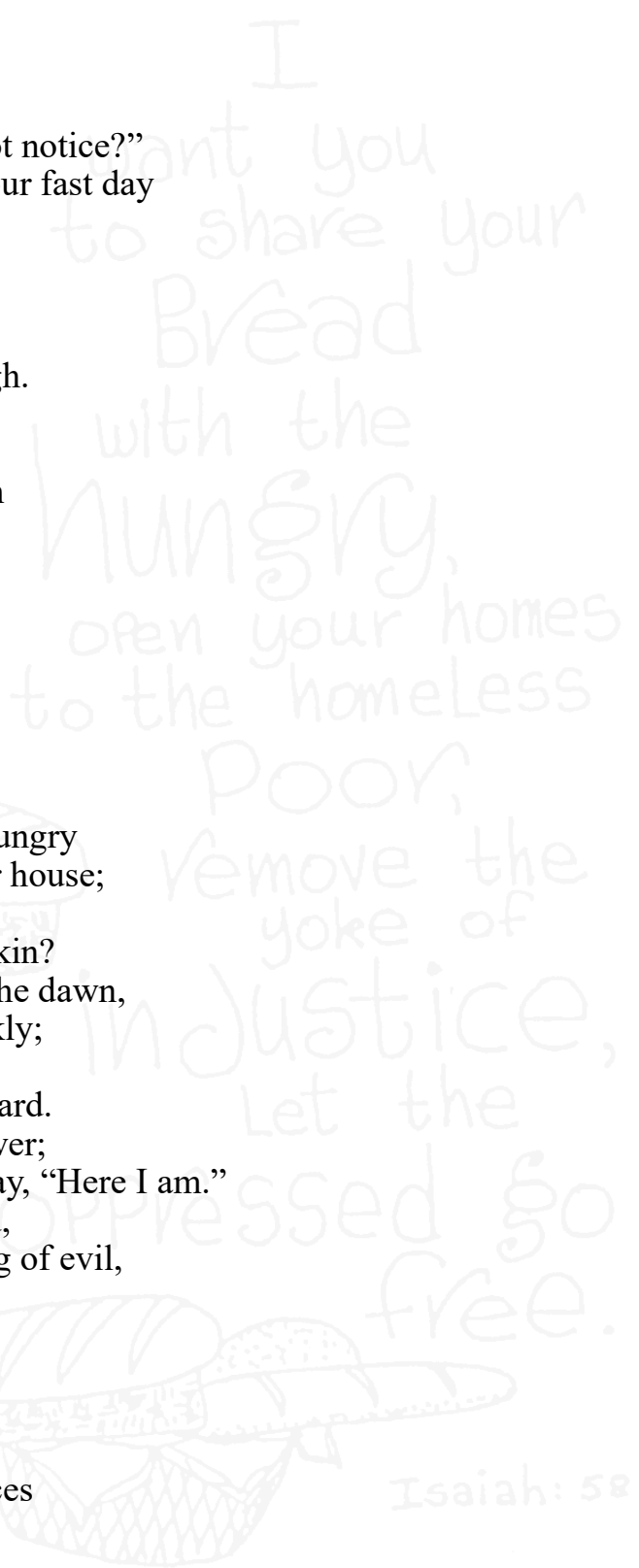
8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of God shall be your rear guard.

9 Then you shall call, and God will answer;
you shall cry for help, and God will say, “Here I am.”

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

10 if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

11 God will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,



and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.

12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

13 If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of God honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;

14 then you shall take delight in God,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of God has spoken.

Luke 13:10-17, adapted from the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition

10 Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. 11 And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. 12 When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." 13 When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. 14 But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." 15 But Jesus answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? 16 And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" 17 When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

Isaiah 58

1 ¡Grita, no te detengas! ¡Alza tu voz como trompeta! Anuncia a mi pueblo su rebelión, a la casa de Jacob sus fechorías. **2** Sin embargo, día tras día me buscan y se deleitan en conocer mis caminos, como si fueran una nación que practica la justicia y no abandona la ordenanza de su Dios; me piden juicios justos; quieren a Dios de su lado. **3** «¿Por qué ayunamos, y no lo ves? ¿Por qué nos humillamos, y no te das cuenta?» Mira, sirves a tus propios intereses en tu día de ayuno y oprimes a todos tus trabajadores.

4 Solo ayunan para riñar, pelear y golpear con el puño malvado. Un ayuno como el que hacen hoy no hará que su voz se oiga en lo alto. **5** ¿Es este el ayuno que yo escogí, un día para humillarse? ¿Es acaso inclinar la cabeza como un junco y yacer en cilicio y ceniza? ¿Llamarán a esto ayuno, un día aceptable a Dios? **6** ¿No es este el ayuno que yo escogí: desatar las ataduras de la injusticia, soltar las correas del yugo, dejar libres a los oprimidos y romper todo yugo? **7** ¿No es compartir tu pan con el hambriento y acoger en casa a los pobres sin hogar? Cuando veas al desnudo, lo cubrirás y no te esconderás de tus hermanos. **8** Entonces tu luz despuntará como la aurora, y tu sanación brotará con rapidez; tu defensor irá delante de ti; la gloria de Dios será tu retaguardia. **9** Entonces invocarás, y Dios te responderá; clamarás por ayuda, y Dios dirá: «Aquí estoy». Si quitas de en medio de ti el yugo, el señalar con el dedo, el hablar mal, **10** si ofreces tu pan al hambriento y sacias al afligido, entonces tu luz brillará en la oscuridad y tu oscuridad será como el mediodía. **11** Dios te guiará continuamente y saciará tu necesidad en lugares áridos y fortalecerá tus huesos, y serás como un jardín regado, como un manantial cuyas aguas nunca faltan. **12** Tus ruinas antiguas serán reconstruidas; levantarás los cimientos de muchas generaciones; Serás llamado reparador de portillos, restaurador de calles para habitar. **13** Si te abstienes de pisotear el sábado, de buscar tus propios intereses en mi día santo; si llamas al sábado delicia y al día santo de Dios, honorable; si lo honras, no andando por tus propios caminos, sirviendo a tus propios intereses ni buscando tus propios asuntos; **14** entonces te deleitarás en Dios, y yo te haré cabalgar sobre las alturas de la tierra; te alimentaré con la herencia de tu antepasado Jacob, porque la boca de Dios ha hablado.

Lucas 13:10-17

10 Estaba enseñando en una de las sinagogas un sábado. **11** Y justo entonces apareció una mujer con un espíritu que la había paralizado durante dieciocho años. Estaba encorvada y no podía enderezarse. **12** Cuando Jesús la vio, la llamó y le dijo: «Mujer, quedas libre de tu dolencia». **13** Cuando le impuso las manos, al instante se enderezó y comenzó a alabar a Dios. **14** Pero el líder de la sinagoga, indignado porque Jesús había curado en sábado, seguía diciendo a la multitud: «Hay seis días en los que se debe trabajar; vengan en esos días y sean curados y no en sábado». **15** Pero Jesús le respondió y dijo: «¡Hipócritas! ¿Acaso cada uno de ustedes no desata su buey o su asno del pesebre en sábado y lo lleva a beber? **16** Y a esta mujer, hija de Abraham, a quien Satanás ató durante dieciocho largos años, ¿no se le debía liberar de esta esclavitud en sábado?» **17** Al decir esto, todos sus adversarios quedaron avergonzados, y toda la multitud se regocijaba por todas las maravillas que hacía.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #409 “I Heard My Mother Say” 1,2,4

1 I heard my mother say,

I heard my mother say,
I heard my mother say,
"Give me Jesus"

Refrain:

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus,
you may have all this world,
give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus,
you may have all this world,
give me Jesus.

2 At midnight was my cry,
at midnight was my cry,
at midnight was my cry,

"Give me Jesus." **[Refrain]**

4 In the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
give me Jesus. **[Refrain]**

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.....

"Estrellita" by M. A. Ponce. Beth Purvis, cello; Linda Gilmour, 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 #412 God Moves in a Mysterious Way 1,4,5,6

1 God moves in a mysterious way
great wonders to perform;
God plants firm footsteps in the sea
and rides upon the storm.

4 Judge not God's way through human sense,
but trust unfailing grace;
behind a frowning providence
there shines a smiling face.

5 God's purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flower.

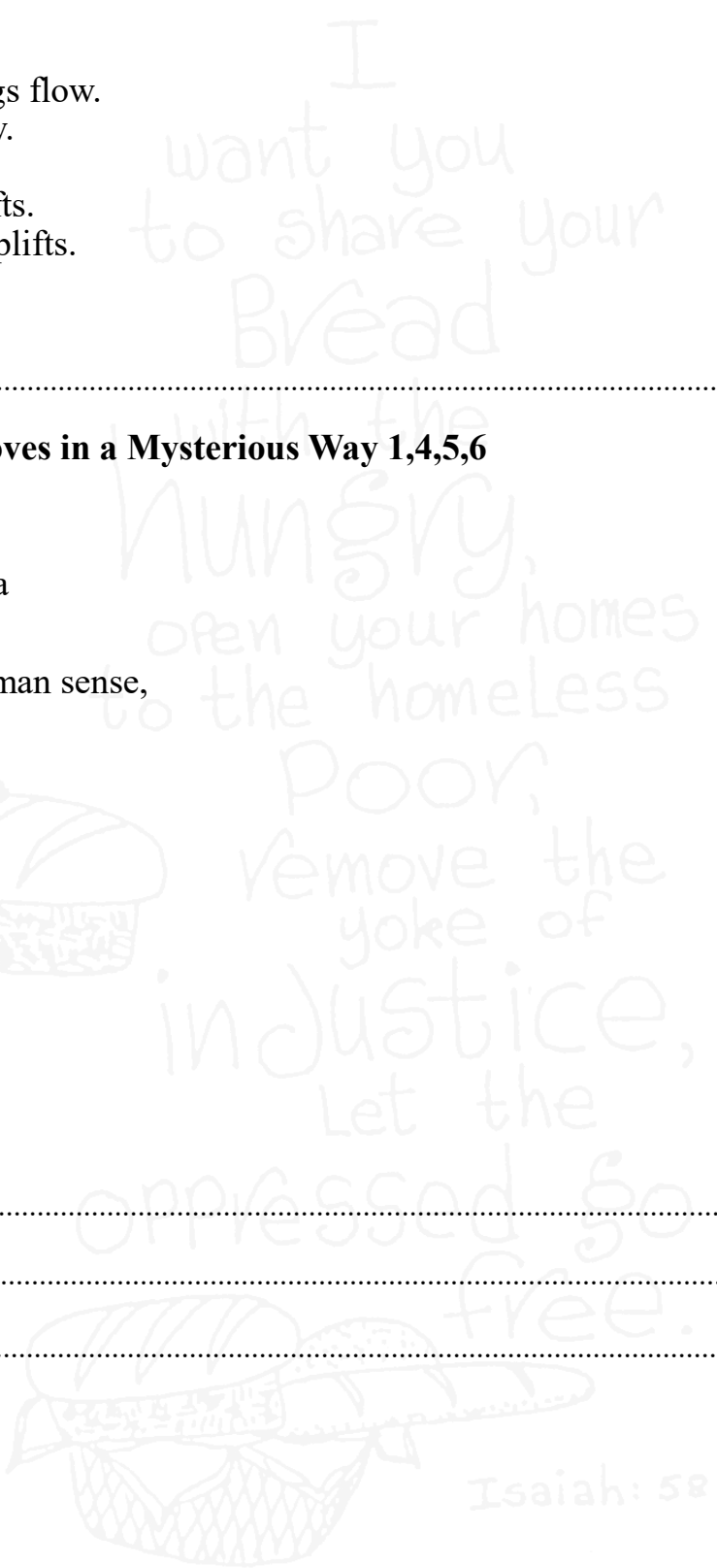
6 Blind unbelief is sure to err
and scan God's work in vain;
God is God's own interpreter,
whose truth shall be made plain.

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

BENEDICTION.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

Carol Red, piano





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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Office: 505-856-1004

www.ucccogs.org

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