



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

11/16/25

11:00am

**Do you love me?
Feed my sheep.**



John 21:15–17

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

November 16, 2025

PRELUDE.....

Carol Red, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP.....

Leader: Jesus asks, “Do you love me?”

People: We answer, “Yes, you know we do.”

Leader: Then hear his command: Feed my sheep.

People: We come to be nourished by God, and to nourish one another.

Leader: God promises: I will gather my flock and give them faithful shepherds.

People: In word, service, and community, we are fed and sustained.

Leader: Come, beloved of God, to worship and be filled.

People: Let us celebrate the One who nourishes us and calls us to be the Living Body of Christ.

HYMN #24 Yigdal Elohim Chai (The God of Abraham Praise)

1 The God of Abraham praise,
all praises to God's name,
who was and is and is to be,
fore'er the same!

The one eternal God,
before what now appears;
the First, the Last:
beyond all thought
through timeless years!

2 God's spirit freely flows,
high surging where it will;
God spoke of old in prophet's word;
that word speaks still.
Established is God's law,
and changeless it shall stand
deep written on the human heart,
in every land.

3 God has eternal life
implanted in the soul;
God's love shall be
our strength and stay,
while ages roll.
All praise the living God!

John 21:15-17

Extol that hallowed name,
who was, and is, and ever shall
be still the same!

OPENING REFLECTION.....

Bach Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major: Sarabande
Nathan Lupinetti, Double Bass

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE..... Joanna Fair

Jeremiah 23:1-6, The New Living Translation

23 “What sorrow awaits the leaders of my people—the shepherds of my sheep—for they have destroyed and scattered the very ones they were expected to care for,” says God.

2 Therefore, this is what the God of Israel says to these shepherds: “Instead of caring for my flock and leading them to safety, you have deserted them and driven them to destruction. Now I will pour out judgment on you for the evil you have done to them.

3 But I will gather together the remnant of my flock from the countries where I have driven them. I will bring them back to their own sheepfold, and they will be fruitful and increase in number.

4 Then I will appoint responsible shepherds who will care for them, and they will never be afraid again. Not a single one will be lost or missing. I, God, have spoken!

5 “For the time is coming,”
says God,

“when I will raise up a righteous descendant
from King David’s line.

He will be a King who rules with wisdom.

He will do what is just and right throughout the land.

6 And this will be his name:

‘God Is Our Righteousness.’

In that day Judah will be saved,
and Israel will live in safety.

John 21:15-17, New Living Translation

15 After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” Peter replied, “you know I love you.”

“Then feed my lambs,” Jesus told him.

16 Jesus repeated the question: “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

“Yes, Lord,” Peter said, “you know I love you.”

“Then take care of my sheep,” Jesus said.

17 A third time he asked him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Then feed my sheep.”

Jeremías 23:1-6, Nueva Biblia Viva

23 ¡Son unos desgraciados los pastores que dejan que sus ovejas se pierdan o las dejan abandonadas ante el peligro!, dice el Señor

2 En vez de llevar mi rebaño a lugar seguro, lo han abandonado y lo han arriado hacia la destrucción. Ahora sobre ustedes descargaré mi gran cólera por el mal que les han causado. Voy a pasar revista de nuevo a sus malas obras para darles el castigo que se merecen.

3 Y recogeré el resto de mi rebaño de todas partes donde anden desperdigados y los traeré a su propio aprisco, y nuevamente tendrán pasto abundante y se multiplicarán.

4 Y los pondré al cuidado de pastores responsables, y nunca más tendrán por qué vivir atemorizadas. Ni una sola se perderá, dice el Señor.

5 Porque llegará un día, dice el Señor, en que pondré como rey en el trono del rey David una Rama justa. Será un Rey que gobierne con sabiduría y rectitud, que hará que la justicia sea la norma de todas las personas en la tierra.

6 Se le conocerá como Señor Justicia Nuestra. En aquel tiempo Judá e Israel habitarán en paz y con seguridad.

Juan 21:15-17, Nueva Biblia Viva

15 Después de desayunar, Jesús le preguntó a Simón Pedro:

—Simón, hijo de Juan, ¿me amas más que estos?

Pedro le contestó:

—Sí, Señor, tú sabes que te quiero.

Jesús le dijo:

—Cuida de mis corderos.

16 Jesús volvió a preguntarle:

—Simón, hijo de Juan, ¿me amas?

—Sí, Señor, tú sabes que te quiero.

Jesús le dijo:

—Cuida de mis ovejas.

17 Por tercera vez Jesús le preguntó:

—Simón, hijo de Juan, ¿me quieres?

Pedro se puso triste de que Jesús le preguntara por tercera vez: «¿Me quieres?». Entonces le dijo:

—Señor, tú lo sabes todo; tú sabes que te quiero.

Jesús le dijo:

—Cuida de mis ovejas.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #252 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need your tender care;
in your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your folds prepare.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us, yours we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us, yours we are.

2 We are yours, in love befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray.

3 Let us always seek your favor;
let us always do your will;
Jesus Christ, our only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.

SERMON.....Rev. Dr. Sarah Townes

PASTORAL PRAYER.....

PRAYER OF JESUS

Life Giver,
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.....

NEW MEMBERS/I Am One Voice.....

OFFERTORY.....

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above," arr. by Kevin McChesney. Joyful Noise Bell Choir

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 #81 "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" verse 1

1 God be with you till we meet again;
By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain:

Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

BENEDICTION.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

Bach Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major: Minuets 1 & 2. Nathan Lupinetti, Double Bass

Permissions:

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” Contributors: Kevin McChesney

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(Today's hymns and works by Bach are in the Public Domain)

Do you love me?
Feed my sheep.



John 21:15-17



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.