



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

11/23/25

11:00am

Give Thanks



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

November 23, 2025

CALL TO WORSHIP.....

Call to Worship

One: Beloved of God, we gather in the space between the world as it is and the world as it could be.

Many: We come with longing and hope, trusting that God is already at work.

One: Isaiah reminds us of God's dream: a world where harm is undone, tears are dried, and every creature lives in peace.

Many: We come with longing and courage, trusting that God is with us on the journey.

One: Jesus tells us the difficult truth: the path of love can be hard; some of the things we care about might crumble; and faithfulness sometimes feels like endurance.

Many: We come with longing and strength, trusting that God is our steady ground and Christ is our companion on the way.

One: Know that God is with you, giving you hope, strength and courage.

Many: Let us celebrate God, who is leading us toward something that Love is making new.

HYMN #422 Come, O Thankful People, Come

1 Come, O thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in
as the winter storms begin;
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

3 These to you, our God, we owe,
source from whom all blessing flow;
and for these our songs we raise,
grateful vows and solemn praise.
Come, then, thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

OPENING REFLECTION.....

"We Gather Together (Shall We Gather at the River / Let Us Break Bread Together / We Gather Together), Arr. By Albert Mendoza. Dorenda Morse, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

Isaiah 65:17-25, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

17 For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. **18** But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight. **19** I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress. **20** No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old person who does not live out a lifetime, for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. **21** They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. **22** They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat, for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. **23** They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be offspring blessed by God—and their descendants as well. **24** Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. **25** The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says God.

Luke 21:5-19, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

5 When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, **6** “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” **7** They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” **8** And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them. **9** “When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” **10** Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; **11** there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. **12** “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. **13** This will give you an opportunity to testify. **14** So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, **15** for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. **16** You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. **17** You will be hated by all because of my name. **18** But not a hair of your head will perish. **19** By your endurance you will gain your souls.

Isaías 65:17-25, Nueva Versión Internacional

17 »Presten atención, que estoy por crear un cielo nuevo y una tierra nueva. No volverán a mencionarse las cosas pasadas ni se traerán a la memoria. **18** Alégrese más bien y regocíjense por siempre, por lo que estoy a punto de crear: Estoy por crear una Jerusalén feliz, un pueblo lleno de alegría. **19** Me regocijaré por Jerusalén y me alegraré en mi pueblo; no volverán a oírse en ella voces de llanto ni gritos de clamor. **20** »Nunca más habrá en ella niños que vivan pocos días ni ancianos que no completen sus años. El que muera a los cien años será considerado joven; pero el que no llegue a esa edad será considerado maldito. **21** Construirán casas y las habitarán; plantarán viñas y comerán de su fruto. **22** Ya no construirán casas para que otros las habiten ni plantarán viñas para que otros coman. Porque los días de mi pueblo serán como los de un árbol; mis escogidos disfrutarán de las obras de sus manos. **23** No trabajarán en vano ni tendrán hijos para la desgracia; tanto ellos como su descendencia serán simiente bendecida del Señor. **24** Antes que me llamen, yo les responderé; todavía estarán hablando cuando ya los habré escuchado. **25** El lobo y el cordero pacerán juntos; el león comerá paja como el buey y la serpiente se alimentará de polvo. En todo mi monte santo no habrá quien haga daño ni destruya», dice el Señor.

Lucas 21:5-19, Nueva Versión Internacional

5 Algunos de sus discípulos comentaban acerca del Templo, de cómo estaba adornado con hermosas piedras y con ofrendas dedicadas a Dios. Pero Jesús dijo:
6 —En cuanto a todo esto que ven ustedes, llegará el día en que no quedará piedra sobre piedra, pues todo será derribado.
7 —Maestro —preguntaron—, ¿cuándo sucederá eso y cuál será la señal de que está a punto de suceder?
8 —Tengan cuidado; no se dejen engañar —les advirtió Jesús—. Vendrán muchos que, usando mi nombre, dirán: “Yo soy”, y: “El tiempo está cerca”. No los sigan ustedes. **9** Cuando sepan de guerras y de revoluciones, no se asusten. Es necesario que eso suceda primero, pero el fin no vendrá enseguida.
10 »Se levantará nación contra nación y reino contra reino —continuó—. **11** Habrá grandes terremotos, hambre y epidemias en diferentes lugares, cosas espantosas y grandes señales del cielo.
12 »Pero antes de todo esto, echarán mano de ustedes y los perseguirán. Los entregarán a las sinagogas y a las cárceles y, por causa de mi nombre, los llevarán ante reyes y gobernadores. **13** Así tendrán ustedes la oportunidad de dar testimonio ante ellos. **14** Pero tengan en cuenta que no hay por qué preparar una defensa de antemano, **15** pues yo mismo les daré tal elocuencia y sabiduría para responder que ningún adversario podrá resistirles ni contradecirles. **16** Ustedes serán traicionados aun por sus padres, hermanos, parientes y amigos, incluso a algunos de ustedes se les dará muerte. **17** Todo el mundo

los odiará por causa de mi nombre. **18** Pero no se perderá ni un solo cabello de su cabeza. **19** Si se mantienen firmes, se salvarán.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #421 We Gather Together

1 We gather together
to ask the Lord's blessing,
to live in community,
seeking God's will.

We come now, as sisters
and brother, confessing
the sins that divide
and the wrong in us still.

2 Beside us, forgiving
enabling, sustaining,
you call us, O Savior,
to life that is new.
You draw us away
from self-centered complaining.
You lead us and guide us
in ways that are true.

3 All praise to the Spirit,
provider, defender.
You offer us freedom,
to follow or stray,
Empowering all by
the hope you engender.
Grant wisdom and courage
to follow your way.

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.....

OFFERTORY.....

“River Glorious” Words by Frances. R. Havergal, music and additional text by. Heather Sorenson. Chancel Choir

Text:

*I Like a river glorious is God's perfect peace,
over all victorious in its bright increase:
perfect, yet still flowing fuller every day;
perfect, yet still growing deeper all the way.*

[Refrain] *Like a river glorious, like a fountain washing over me
Like the waves from the ocean's depth,
Endless is God's perfect peace.*

*Hidden in the hollow of God's blessed hand,
Never foe can follow, never traitor stand.*

*Not a surge of worry, not a shade of care,
Not a blast of hurry touch the spirit there. {Refrain}*

*Ev'ry joy or trial falleth from above,
Traced upon our dial by the Sun of Love.
We may trust God fully, all for us to do.
They who trust God wholly, fin God wholly true.*

*Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest,
Finding, as God promised, perfect peace and rest.*

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 “When All Is Ended” Verses 1,2,3,4,6 (Tune to “For All The Saints” - SINE NOMINE)

1 When all is ended, time and troubles past,
shall all be mended, sin and death out-cast?
In hope we sing, and hope to sing at last:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 As in the night, when lightning flickers free,
and gives a glimpse of distant hill and tree,
each flash of good discloses what will be:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 Against all hope, our weary times have known
wars ended, peace declared, compassion shown,
great days of freedom, tyrants overthrown:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 Then do not cheat the poor, who long for bread,
with dream-worlds in the sky or in the head,
but sing of slaves set free, and children fed:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 With all creation, pain and anger past,
evil exhausted, love supreme at last,
alive in God, we'll sing an unsurpassed
Alleluia! Alleluia!

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

BENEDICTION.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

**"Songs of Thanksgiving (Now Thank We All Our God /
Come, Ye Thankful People, Com), NUN DANKET ALLEGOTT, ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR,
arr. By Sandra Eithun, Dorenda Morse, 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.