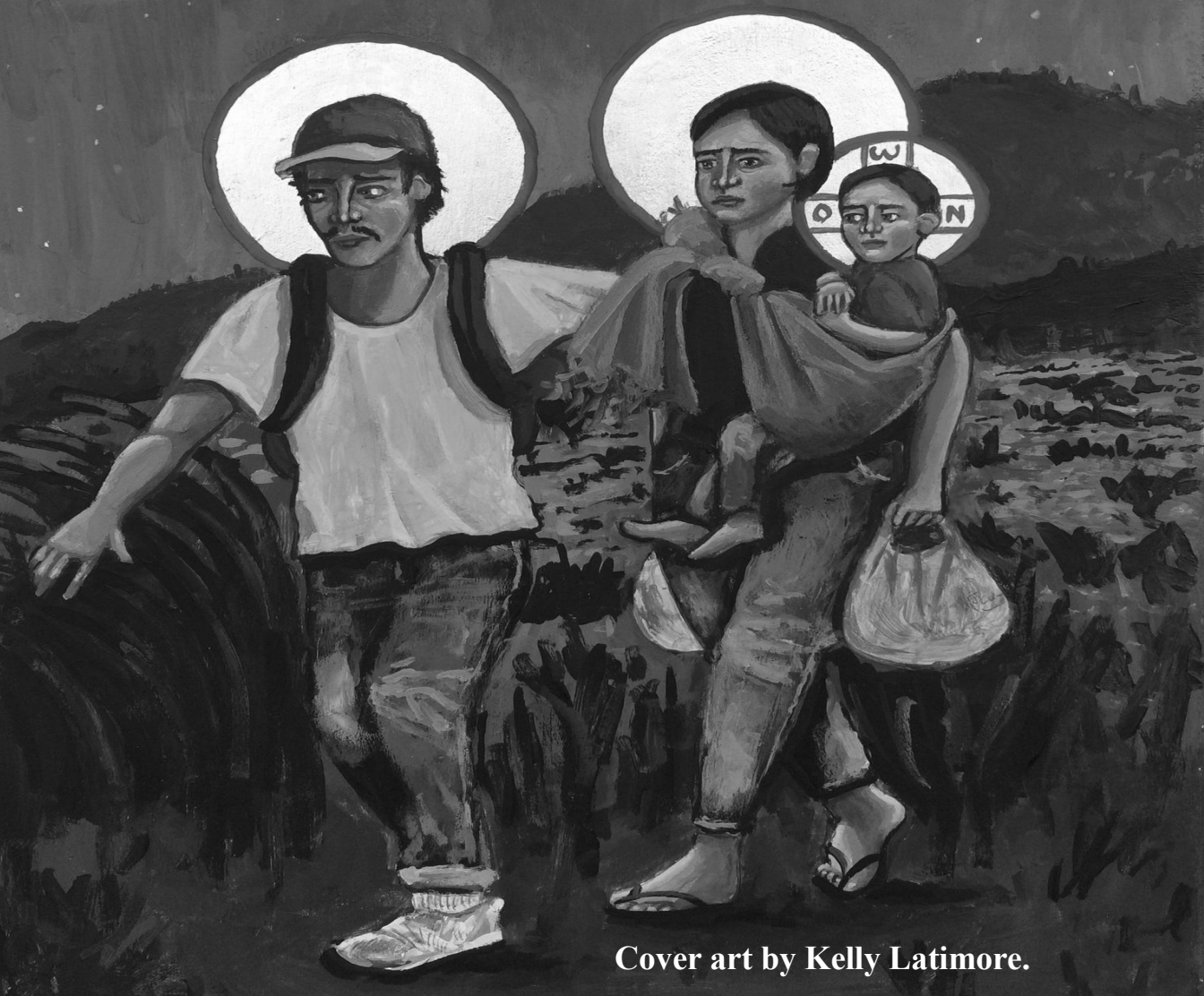




CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

12/28/25

11:00am



Cover art by Kelly Latimore.

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

December 28, 2025

Worship Leader: Judith Newby

CALL TO WORSHIP.....

One: Come, let us gather to remember the steadfast love of God.

Many: God carries us through every wilderness and exile.

One: Let us remember that God hears the cries of the vulnerable and walks beside all who journey far from home.

Many: As the Holy Family once fled danger, let us remember all who still seek safety, shelter, and welcome.

One: May our worship open our hearts to hear their stories and listen to God's call for compassion.

Many: Come, let us worship the God, who accompanies every traveler, and who calls us to be a refuge of love.

HYMN #144 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing 1,2

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the Christ-child bring;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinner reconciled!"
Joyful, all you saints arise,
join the triumph of the skies;
With the angel host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the Christ-child bring!"**

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time the Savior comes,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased on earth with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel. **[Refrain]**

OPENING REFLECTION.....

Dorenda Morse, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....

Isaiah 63:7-9, Common English Bible

- 7 I will recount God's faithful acts;
I will sing God's praises,
because of all God did for us,
for God's great favor toward the house of Israel.
God treated them compassionately
and with deep affection.
- 8 God said, "Truly, they are my people,
children who won't do what is wrong."
God became their savior.
- 9 During all their distress, God also was distressed,
so a messenger who served him saved them.
In love and mercy God redeemed them,
lifting and carrying them throughout earlier times.

Isaías 63:7-9, Nueva Versión Internacional

- 7 Recordaré las misericordias del Señor,
y sus hechos dignos de alabanza,
por todo lo que hizo por nosotros,
por su compasión y gran amor.
¡Sí, por la multitud de cosas buenas
que ha hecho por los descendientes de Israel!
- 8 Declaró: «Verdaderamente son mi pueblo,
hijos que no me engañarán».
Así se convirtió en el Salvador de ellos.
- 9 Si ellos se angustiaban, él también se angustiaba;
el ángel de su presencia los salvó.
En su amor y misericordia los rescató;
los levantó y los llevó
en los tiempos de antaño.

Matthew 2:13-23, Common English Bible

- 13 When the magi had departed, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up. Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will soon search for the child in order to kill him." 14 Joseph got up and, during the night, took the child and his mother to Egypt. 15 He stayed there until

Herod died. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I have called my son out of Egypt.¹⁶ When Herod knew the magi had fooled him, he grew very angry. He sent soldiers to kill all the children in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding territory who were two years old and younger, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ This fulfilled the word spoken through Jeremiah the prophet:

18

*A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and much grieving.
Rachel weeping for her children,
and she did not want to be comforted,
because they were no more.*

¹⁹ After King Herod died, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. ²⁰ “Get up,” the angel said, “and take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel. Those who were trying to kill the child are dead.” ²¹ Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus ruled over Judea in place of his father Herod, Joseph was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he went to the area of Galilee. ²³ He settled in a city called Nazareth so that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled: He will be called a Nazarene.

Mateo 2:13-23, Nueva Versión Internacional

¹³ Cuando ya se habían ido, un ángel del Señor se apareció en sueños a José y dijo: «Levántate, toma al niño y a su madre, y huye a Egipto. Quédate allí hasta que yo te avise, porque Herodes va a buscar al niño para matarlo».

¹⁴ Así que se levantó cuando todavía era de noche, tomó al niño y a su madre y partió para Egipto, ¹⁵ donde permaneció hasta la muerte de Herodes. De este modo se cumplió lo que el Señor había dicho por medio del profeta: «De Egipto llamé a mi hijo».

¹⁶ Cuando Herodes se dio cuenta de que los sabios se habían burlado de él, se enfureció y mandó a matar a todos los niños menores de dos años en Belén y en sus alrededores, de acuerdo con el tiempo que había averiguado de los sabios. ¹⁷ Entonces se cumplió lo dicho por el profeta Jeremías:

18

*«Se oye un grito en Ramá,
llanto y gran lamentación.
Es Raquel que llora por sus hijos
y no quiere ser consolada.
¡Sus hijos ya no existen!».*

¹⁹ Después que murió Herodes, un ángel del Señor se apareció en sueños a José en Egipto ²⁰ y le dijo: «Levántate, toma al niño y a su madre, y vete a la tierra de Israel, pues ya murieron los que amenazaban con quitarle la vida al niño».

21 Así que se levantó José, tomó al niño y a su madre, y regresó a la tierra de Israel. 22 Pero al oír que Arquelao reinaba en Judea en lugar de su padre Herodes, tuvo miedo de ir allá. Advertido por Dios en sueños, se retiró al distrito de Galilea 23 y fue a vivir en un pueblo llamado Nazaret. Con esto se cumplió lo dicho por los profetas: «Lo llamarán Nazareno».

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #154 Go Tell It On The Mountain

Refrain:

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hill and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. **[Refrain]**

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. **[Refrain]**

3 Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. **[Refrain]**

SERMON.....**Emmy Mullennix**

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.....

Dorenda Morse, 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.....

CLOSING HYMN #154 Go Tell It On The Mountain

Refrain:

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hill and everywhere.**

**Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

1 While shepherds kept their watching
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Behold throughout the heavens
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Rang out the angel chorus
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3 Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. **[Refrain]**

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

HYMN SING - select your favorite Christmas hymn from the hymnal and we will sing one or two verses

BENEDICTION.....

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Contributors: Joyce Finch Johnson
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Happy New Year!

• H A P P Y • N E W • Y E A R •



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

Mission Statement

The mission of Church of the Good

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

7834 Tennyson Street NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122

Office: 505-856-1004

www.ucccogs.org

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