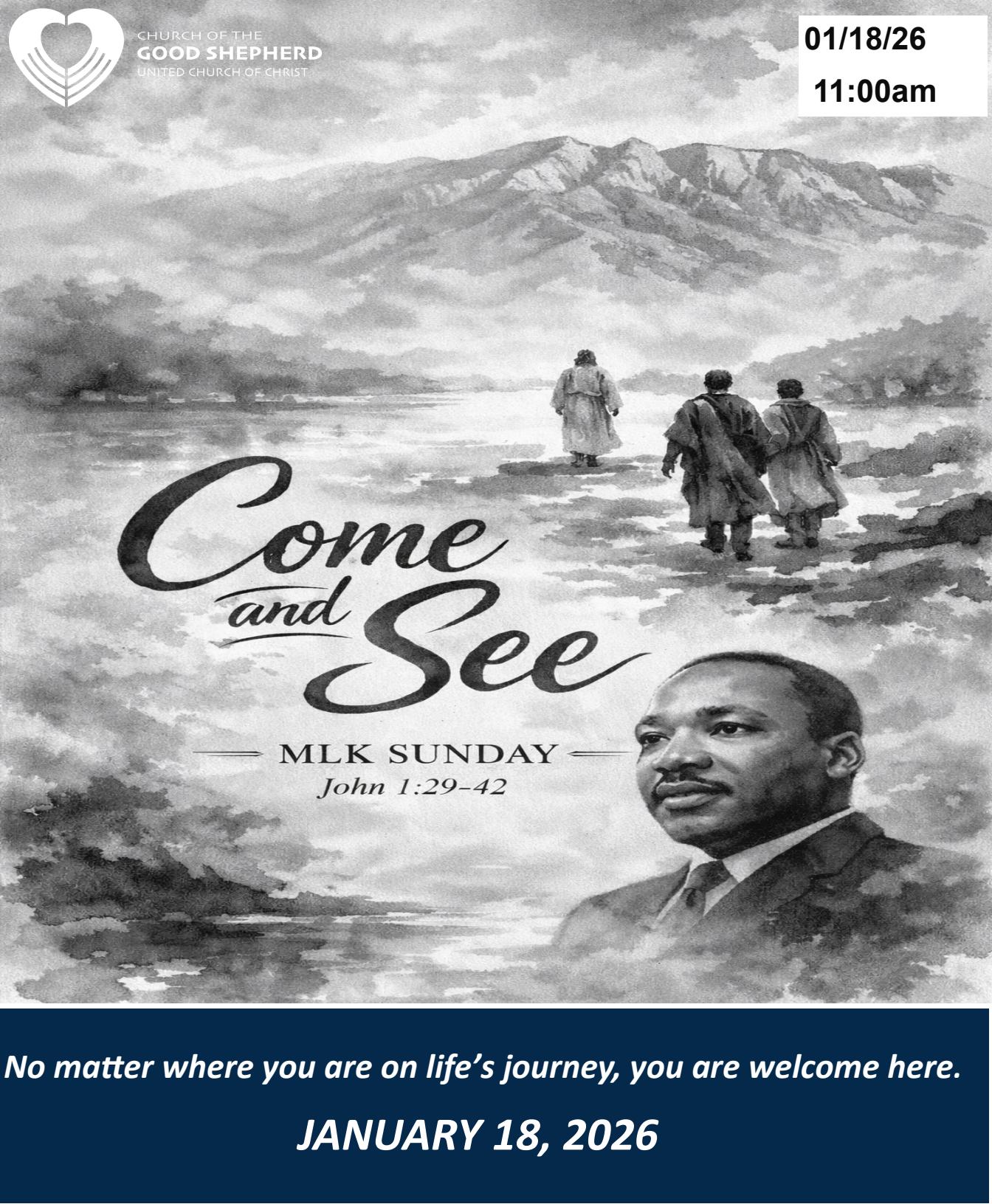




CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

01/18/26

11:00am



*Come
and See*

— MLK SUNDAY —

John 1:29-42



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

JANUARY 18, 2026

Worship Leader: Doug Longfield

CALL TO WORSHIP.....

by Laura Jaquith Bartlett, based on Isaiah 49

One: Listen up, everyone! God has given us work to do.

Many: God has called each of us before we were even born.

One: It was God who named us.

Many: It is God who claims us.

One: The light of God's love shines in us.

Many: Let's shine God's love into all the world!

HYMN #526 “We Are Marching in the Light of God” (Siyahumba’)

We are marching in the light of God

We are marching, marching. We are marching, ooo

We are marching in the light of God

We are marching, marching. We are marching, ooo

We are marching in the light of God

(Optional Zulu)

Siyahamba eku-khan-yeni kwen-kos

Siyahamba eku-khan-yeni kwen-kos

Siyahamba eku-khan-yeni kwen-kos

Siyahamba eku-khan-yeni kwenkos

Siyahamla, 'hamba. Siyahamba, oooo

Siyahamba ekukhanyeni kwenkos

Siyahamla, 'hamba. Siyahamba, oooo

Siyahamba ekukhanyeni kwenkos

OPENING REFLECTION.....

“How Can I Keep From Singing” Quaker Song arr. Jay Althouse. Chancel Choir

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....

John 1:29-42, The Message

29-31 The very next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and yelled out, “Here he is,

the Lamb of God! He forgives the sins of the world! This is the man I've been talking about, 'the One who comes after me but is really ahead of me.' I knew nothing about who he was—only this: that my task has been to get Israel ready to recognize him as the God-Revealer. That is why I came here baptizing with water, giving you a good bath and scrubbing sins from your life so you can get a fresh start with God."

32-34 John clinched his witness with this: "I watched the Spirit, like a dove flying down out of the sky, making himself at home in him. I repeat, I know nothing about him except this: The One who authorized me to baptize with water told me, 'The One on whom you see the Spirit come down and stay, this One will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' That's exactly what I saw happen, and I'm telling you, there's no question about it: This is the Son of God."

35-36 The next day John was back at his post with two disciples, who were watching.

He looked up, saw Jesus walking nearby, and said, "Here he is, God's Passover Lamb."

37-38 The two disciples heard him and went after Jesus. Jesus looked over his shoulder

and said to them, "What are you after?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

39 He replied, "Come along and see for yourself."

They came, saw where he was living, and ended up staying with him for the day. It was late afternoon when this happened.

40-42 Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard John's witness and followed Jesus. The first thing he did after finding where Jesus lived was find his own brother, Simon, telling him, "We've found the Messiah" (that is, "Christ"). He immediately led him to Jesus.

Jesus took one look up and said, "You're John's son, Simon? From now on your name is Cephas" (or Peter, which means "Rock").

Juan 1:29-42, La Palabra (Hispanoamérica)

29 Al día siguiente, Juan vio a Jesús que se acercaba a él, y dijo:

— Ahí tienen ustedes al Cordero de Dios que quita el pecado del mundo. 30 A él me refería yo cuando dije: "Después de mí viene uno que es superior a mí, porque él ya existía antes que yo". 31 Ni yo mismo sabía quién era, pero Dios me encomendó bautizar con agua precisamente para que él tenga ocasión de darse a conocer a Israel.

32 Y Juan prosiguió su testimonio diciendo:

— He visto que el Espíritu bajaba del cielo como una paloma y permanecía sobre él. 33 Ni yo mismo sabía quién era, pero el que me envió a bautizar con agua me dijo: "Aquel sobre quien veas que baja el Espíritu y permanece sobre él, ese es quien ha de bautizar con Espíritu Santo". 34 Y, puesto que yo lo he visto, testifico que este es el Hijo de Dios.

35 Al día siguiente, de nuevo estaba Juan con dos de sus discípulos 36 y, al ver a Jesús que pasaba por allí, dijo:

— Ahí tienen al Cordero de Dios.

37 Los dos discípulos, que se lo oyeron decir, fueron en pos de Jesús, 38 quien al ver que lo seguían, les preguntó:

— ¿Qué buscan?

Ellos contestaron:

— Rabí (que significa “Maestro”), ¿dónde vives?

Él les respondió:

39 — Vengan a verlo.

Se fueron, pues, con él, vieron dónde vivía y pasaron con él el resto de aquel día. Eran como las cuatro de la tarde.

40 Uno de los dos que habían escuchado a Juan y habían seguido a Jesús era Andrés, el hermano de Simón Pedro. 41 Lo primero que hizo Andrés fue ir en busca de su hermano Simón para decirle:

— Hemos hallado al Mesías (palabra que quiere decir “Cristo”).

42 Y se lo presentó a Jesús, quien, fijando en él la mirada, le dijo:

— Tú eres Simón, hijo de Juan; en adelante te llamarás Cefas (es decir, Pedro).

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #172 “Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult” 1,3,4,5

1 Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
Day by day that voice still calls us,
saying, "Christian, follow me."

3 Jesus calls us from the worship
of the treasures we adore,
From each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."

4 In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
Jesus calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."

5 Jesus calls us! By your mercies,
Savior, may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

SERMON..... **Rev. Dr. Sarah 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.....

"I Will Arise and Go to Jesus," Tune: RESTORATION, arr. By Heather Sorenson, Dorenda Mose, 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 #593 “Lift Every Voice and Sing” 1,3

1 Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
God who has brought us thus far on the way;
God, who by your might, led us into the light,

keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

CLOSING.....

*"Go, Tell It On the Mountain," African-American Spiritual
Dorenda Morse, piano*

BENEDICTION.....

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MLK SUNDAY

John 1:29-42



Thank you for joining us in worship today

We are delighted to have you worshiping 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

Mission Statement

Church of the Good Shepherd desires to be an

The mission of Church of the Good

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.