



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

02/22/26

11:00am



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

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

Worship Leader: Axel Catterall

WELCOME.....

CALL TO WORSHIP.....

One: The good news of the gospel is: manna in the desert,

Many: water turned into wine, love after loss, forgiveness after pain.

One: The good news of the gospel is: release for the captive, hope for the hopeless,

Many: mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to friends.

One: So come on in. There's no time to waste! This surprising good news is here for you.

Many: Let us celebrate this good-news God!

HYMN #417 "This is a Day of New Beginnings" 1-4

1 This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

2 For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.

3 Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

4 Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings -
our God is making all things new.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION.....

PRAYER OF CONFESSION.....

Loving God,

Somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful,
we have to be serious.

We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies.

But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed.

You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant.

We begin to wonder:
Can we be like that mustard seed?
Can we be faithful and unruly?
Can we be playful and curious?
Can we be messy and still be yours?
We know the answer already.
The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course.
Forgive our doubt.
Pull us closer into your embrace.
With faith like a mustard seed, we pray.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON.....

OPENING REFLECTION.....
*“Jesus, Lover of My Soul,” by Joseph Parry, Tune: ABERYSTWUTH, arr. By Larry Shackley
Dorenda Morse, piano*

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....
John 2:1-11, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” 4 And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come.” 5 His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” 6 Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. 8 He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet.” So they took it. 9 When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” 11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

Juan 2:1-11, Nueva Versión Internacional

2 Al tercer día se celebró una boda en Caná de Galilea y la madre de Jesús se encontraba allí. 2 También habían sido invitados a la boda Jesús y sus discípulos. 3 Cuando el 3

vino se acabó, la madre de Jesús le dijo:—Ya no tienen vino. **4** —Mujer, ¿eso qué tiene que ver conmigo? —respondió Jesús—. Todavía no ha llegado mi hora. **5** Su madre dijo a los sirvientes:—Hagan lo que él les ordene. **6** Había allí seis tinajas de piedra, de las que usan los judíos en sus ceremonias de purificación. En cada una cabían unos cien litros. **7** Jesús dijo a los sirvientes:—Llenen de agua las tinajas. Y los sirvientes las llenaron hasta el borde. **8** —Ahora saquen un poco y llévenlo al encargado del banquete —dijo Jesús. Así lo hicieron. **9** El encargado del banquete probó el agua convertida en vino sin saber de dónde había salido, aunque sí lo sabían los sirvientes que habían sacado el agua. Entonces llamó aparte al novio **10** y le dijo:—Todos sirven primero el mejor vino y, cuando los invitados ya han bebido mucho, entonces sirven el más barato; pero tú has guardado el mejor vino hasta ahora. **11** Esta primera señal milagrosa la hizo Jesús en Caná de Galilea. Así reveló su gloria y sus discípulos creyeron en él.

Matthew 13:31-32, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

31 He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

Mateo 13:31-32, Nueva Versión Internacional

31 Les contó otra parábola: «El reino de los cielos es como una semilla de mostaza que un hombre sembró en su campo. 32 Aunque es la más pequeña de todas las semillas, cuando crece es la más grande de las plantas del huerto. Se convierte en árbol, de modo que vienen las aves y anidan en sus ramas».

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

“Seeds of God’s Garden, Tenderly Planted” Words by Amanda Udis-Kessler, May, 2025; tune Bunessan (“Morning Has Broken”) Free Use

1 Seeds of God’s garden, tenderly planted,
Hope of creation, buried with care,
Through our beholding slowly unfolding,
Tended in patience, nurtured in prayer.

2 Seeds of God’s garden, tiny and fragile,
Hope of creation, cool in the earth,
Easing our sadness, bringers of gladness,
Bearers of goodness showing our worth.

3 Seeds of God’s garden, one day to blossom,
Hope of creation, bearing good fruit,
Gently repairing all our despairing,

Faith reaching outward, love at the root.

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.....

“Pie Jesu” by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Esther Moses and Mathena Page

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 #528 Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)

1 You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;
You’re a star that will shine through the day;
You are the yeast and a small grain of salt,
a beacon to glow in the night.

Refrain: Go, my friends, go to the world,
Proclaiming love to all,
Messengers of my forgiving peace,
eternal love.

2 You are the dawn that will bring a new day;
You're the wheat that will bear golden grain;
You are a sting and a soft, gentle touch,
My witnesses where-e'er you go.

Refrain: Be, my friends, a loyal witness,
From the dead I arose;
“Lo, I'll be with you forever,
Till the end of the world.”

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

CLOSING.....

"Divine, All Love Excelling by John Zundel, arr. by Clarence Kohlmann. Dorenda Morse, piano

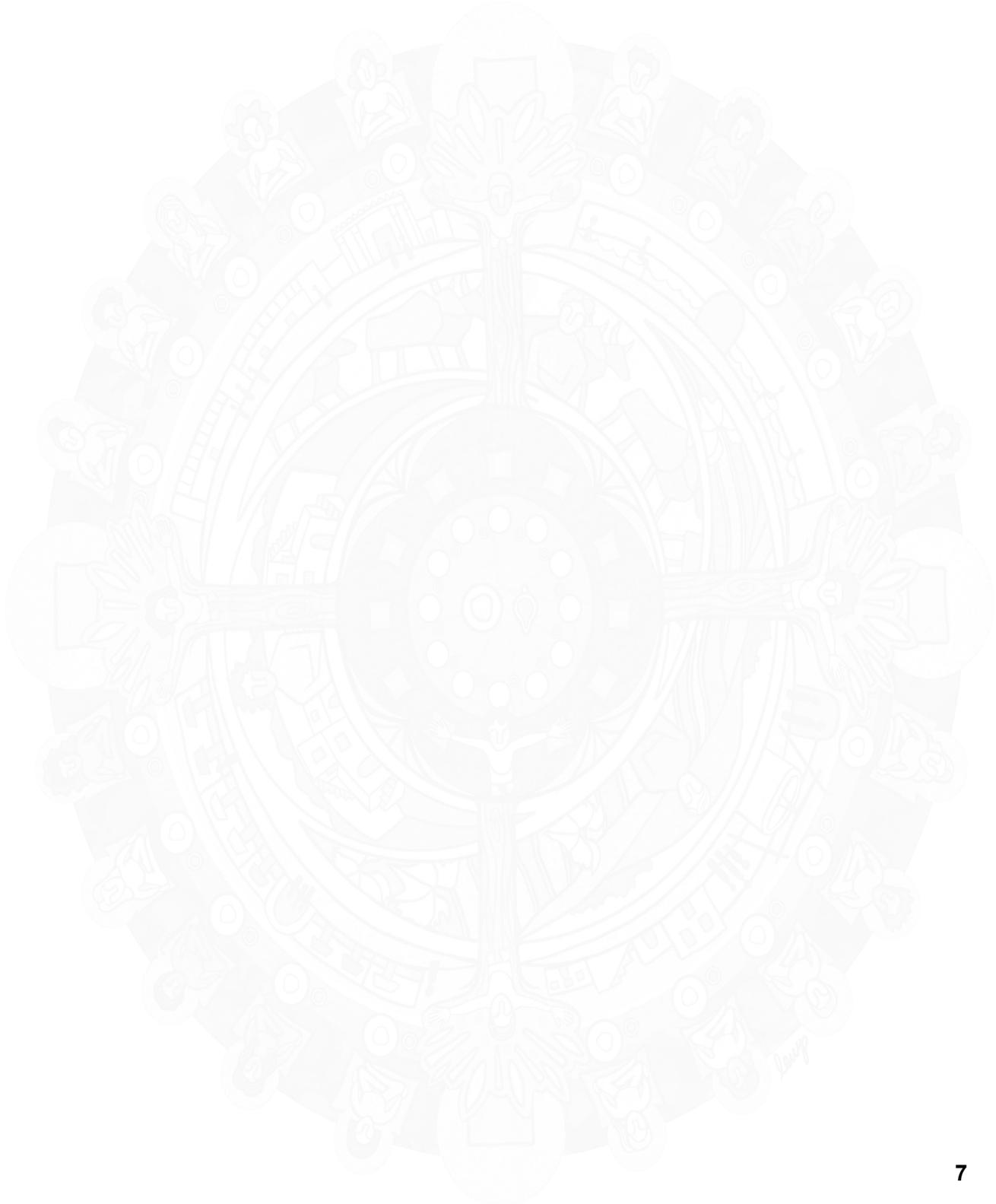
BENEDICTION.....

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Welcome!

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

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.