



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

03/08/26

11:00am



Handwritten signature

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

MARCH 08, 2026

Cover Art: "Scarce Abundance" by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Mark 6:32-44

18"x18" Paper lace with watercolor

In this account from Mark, Jesus had compassion. This word, *splagchnizomai* in Greek, comes from the root *splagchnon* (meaning "bowels") which has a sense of a visceral, gut-level form of compassion. It intrigues me that this deep, embodied compassion prompted Jesus to teach. Leading up to this moment, Jesus is trying to get away, to rest. His disciples row him toward the people; however, he is compelled by compassion to teach. As he is teaching, I imagine the crowd turning to one another—What did he say?—repeating his words, passing them along. In this artwork, the elements of the story are framed in a stained glass window design. Centered, the people gather in circles, passing the scarcely abundant food to one another. Waves encircle the crowd, representing the twelve disciples. The outer architectural elements portray the twelve baskets full of pieces of bread and fish—a representation of abundance from scarcity, powered by collective belief. Jesus did not have a microphone. It was the people in the front who passed the still, small voice of God back to those behind them. It was the people in the front who passed more than enough food back to those who were hungry. In our propaganda-filled global information system, we must remember: God is not holding the mic. God is present in the still, small voice and in the smallest offerings, multiplying one by one. The message, the compassion, the corners of bread, and the pieces of fish all return in abundance. —Hannah Garrity

Worship Leader: **Amy Headrick**

WELCOME.....

CALL TO WORSHIP.....

One: If you need good news,

Many: Settle into this space. We have good news to share.

One: If you need a word of hope,

Many: Then trust us when we say: There is hope enough to go around.

One: If you need a glimmer of joy,

Many: Then you're in luck! We have resilient joy abounding.

One: If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,

Many: hen know that this is God's house.

One: This is the good news of the gospel.

Many: God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move. Let us celebrate our with-us God!

HYMN #32 God of the Sparrow 1,2,5,6

1 God of the sparrow God of the whale

God of the swirling stars

How does the creature say Awe

How does the creature say Praise

2 God of the earthquake God of the storm

God of the trumpet blast

How does the creature say Woe

How does the creature cry Save

5 God of the neighbor God of the foe



God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION.....

PRAYER OF CONFESSION.....

Holy God,
With you, the impossible is possible.
5,000 can be fed.
The blind can see.
The hopeless can find hope.
Sometimes we forget that.
We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done.
We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd.
We forget that you are always with us.
Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come.
Forgive us when we hesitate or refuse to be a part of that change.
With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON.....

OPENING REFLECTION.....

“Come By Here” by Kyle Pederson Tune: KUM BA YAH, African American spiritual. Chancel Choir

In the morning, in the evening, Lord, you are here.
In my pleading, waiting, caring, blessing, you are here.
In my longing, falling, hiding, rising, healing, aching, laughing,
praising, finding, breathing, dying, you are here.

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....

Luke 7:36-50, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

hair. 45 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing

Mark 6:32-44, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

32 And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. 33 Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. 34 As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. 35 When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; 36 send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.” 37 But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” 38 And he said to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” 39 Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. 41 Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. 42 And all ate and were filled, 43 and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. 44 Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

Marcos 6:32-44, Nueva Versión Internacional

32 Así que se fueron solos en la barca a un lugar solitario. 33 Pero muchos que los vieron salir los reconocieron y desde todos los poblados corrieron por tierra hasta allá y llegaron antes que ellos. 34 Cuando Jesús desembarcó y vio tanta gente, tuvo compasión de ellos, porque eran como ovejas sin pastor. Así que comenzó a enseñarles muchas cosas.

35 Cuando ya se hizo tarde, se le acercaron sus discípulos y dijeron:

—Este es un lugar apartado y ya es muy tarde. 36 Despide a la gente, para que vayan a los campos y pueblos cercanos y se compren algo de comer.

37 —Denles ustedes mismos de comer —contestó Jesús.

—¿Eso costaría más de seis meses de trabajo! —objetaron—. ¿Quieres que vayamos y gastemos todo ese dinero en pan para darles de comer?

38 —¿Cuántos panes tienen ustedes? —preguntó—. Vayan a ver.

Después de averiguarlo, dijeron:

—Cinco y dos pescados.

39 Entonces les mandó que hicieran que la gente se sentara por grupos sobre la hierba verde. 40 Así que ellos se acomodaron en grupos de cien y de cincuenta. 41 Jesús tomó los cinco panes y los dos pescados y, mirando al cielo, los bendijo. Luego partió los panes y se los dio a los discípulos para que se los repartieran a la gente. También repartió los dos pescados entre todos. 42 Comieron hasta quedar satisfechos 43 y los

discípulos recogieron doce canastas llenas de pedazos de pan y de pescado. 44 Los que comieron fueron cinco mil.

Ephesians 3:20-21, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

20 Now to God, who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, 21 to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Efesios 3:20-21, Nueva Versión Internacional

20 Al que puede hacer muchísimo más que todo lo que podamos imaginarnos o pedir, por el poder que obra eficazmente en nosotros, 21 ¡a él sea la gloria en la iglesia y en Cristo Jesús por todas las generaciones, por los siglos de los siglos! Amén.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN#495 Called As Partners in Christ's Service 1,3,4

1 Called as partners in Christ's service
Called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
Side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfill God's chosen end.

3 Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
In a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens
Breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort words of vision,
Words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action,
Make us colleagues free and fair.

4 So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
Our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace.

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.....

*“O Rest In The Lord,” from “Elijah” by Felix Mendelssohn
Dedicated to my precious friend, Elizabeth Boeckman
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 HYMN “Human Minds Just Can’t Imagine”

Inspired by Ephesians 3:20-21

Tune: AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7 D (“God Whose Giving Knows No Ending”)

Text: Anna Strickland (2025) Used with permission

Music: Joseph Haydn (1797)

1 Human minds just can’t imagine all that God can bring to bear
Through our small and separate beings, even when we join to share
Still we follow where Christ leads us, many pieces of one whole
That we might allow our dreaming to transform our broken world

2 God, expand our dreams and vision when we think our gifts too small
Help us trust your great provision and to answer when you call
You who gave us time and talents will uphold and see us through
As we join together in the work you've given us to do

3 Like the grains of wheat are gathered from the vast and rolling fields
Like the grapes from vine branches whose small fruit the wine will yield
We re-member as one body, each of us a crucial part
In the global church professing: we belong to God's own heart

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

CLOSING.....

"My Savior's Love," Tune: MY SAVIOR'S LOVE, by Charles Gabriel and Quoting SAGINA by Thomas Campbell, arr. By Lloyd Larson Dorenda Morse, piano

BENEDICTION.....

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"My Savior's Love"
Contributors: Lloyd Larson

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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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