



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

04/12/26

11:00am



“Peace be with you.
As God has sent me,
so I send you.”

John 20:21

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

APRIL 12, 2026

WELCOME.....

CALL TO WORSHIP.....

One: Christ is risen!

Many: He is risen indeed!

One: The women ran from the empty tomb with fear and joy, their hearts pounding with a story too alive to keep quiet.

Many: We are listening! We are ready to hear their Good News!

One: Where fear once held us, Love whispers courage.

Many: Where despair once settled in, Grace declares a new beginning.

One: The Living God is still speaking!

Many: Alleluia! Let us celebrate the God of new life!

HYMN #42 “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer’s praise,
The glories ever echoing
the triumphs of God’s grace!

2 My gracious Savior and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.

3 Jesus! the name that calms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease
Is music in the sinner’s ears,
is life, and health, and peace!

4 Glory to God, and love and praise
be ever, ever given
By all the saints in every age,
the church in earth and heaven.

OPENING REFLECTION.....

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy,” by Lizzie S. Tourjee, Tune: WELLESLEY, arr. by Larry Shackley . Dorenda Morse, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....

John 20:19-31, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Judeans, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw him. 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so I send you.” 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” 28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Juan 20:19-31. Nueva Versión Internacional

19 Al atardecer de aquel primer día de la semana, estando reunidos los discípulos a puerta cerrada por temor a los judíos, entró Jesús y poniéndose en medio de ellos, dijo: —¡La paz sea con ustedes!

20 Dicho esto, les mostró las manos y el costado. Al ver al Señor, los discípulos se alegraron.

21 —¡La paz sea con ustedes! —repitió Jesús—. Como Dios me envió a mí, así yo los envío a ustedes.

22 Acto seguido, sopló sobre ellos y les dijo:

—Reciban el Espíritu Santo. 23 A quienes perdonen sus pecados, les serán perdonados; a quienes no se los perdonen, no les serán perdonados.

24 Tomás, al que apodaban el Gemelo y que era uno de los doce, no estaba con los discípulos cuando llegó Jesús. 25 Así que los otros discípulos le dijeron:

—¡Hemos visto al Señor!

—Mientras no vea yo la marca de los clavos en sus manos, y meta mi dedo en las marcas y mi mano en su costado, no lo creeré —repuso Tomás.

26 Una semana más tarde estaban los discípulos de nuevo en la casa y Tomás estaba con ellos. Aunque las puertas estaban cerradas, Jesús entró y, poniéndose en medio de ellos, los saludó.

—¡La paz sea con ustedes!

27 Luego dijo a Tomás:

—Pon tu dedo aquí y mira mis manos. Acerca tu mano y métela en mi costado. Y no seas incrédulo, sino hombre de fe.

28 —¡Señor mío y Dios mío! —exclamó Tomás.

29 —Porque me has visto, has creído —le dijo Jesús—; dichosos los que no han visto y sin embargo creen.

30 Jesús hizo muchas otras señales en presencia de sus discípulos, las cuales no están registradas en este libro. 31 Pero estas se han escrito para que ustedes creen que Jesús es el Cristo, el Hijo de Dios, y para que al creer en su nombre tengan vida.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #290 “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” 1-4

1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are,
and make me love thee as I ought to love.

2 I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
No angel visitant, no opening skies;
but take the dimness of my soul away.

3 Have you not bid us love you every way?
All, all your own; soul, heart, and strength, and mind;
I see your cross - there teach my heart to stay:
O let me seek you, and O let me find.

4 Teach me to feel that you are always nigh;
teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;

teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

SERMON.....**Betty Davis**

PASTORAL PRAYER.....

PRAYER OF JESUS

Our Father, Our Mother,
Who is in Heaven, Holy be Your name,
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.....

“Stars I Shall Find” Music by Ruth Morris Gray, Words by Sara Teasdale (1844-1933). Axel Catteral, Joanna Fair, Chris Keelan

Lyrics:

*There will be rest, and sure stars shining
Over the roof-tops crowned with snow,
A reign of rest, serene forgetting,
The music of stillness holy and low.
I will make this world of my devising,
Out of a dream in my lonely mind,
I shall find the crystal of peace,--above me
Stars I shall find.*

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below. John 20:21
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 #256 We Live By Faith and Not By Sight 1-4

1 We live by faith and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear
From Christ who spoke as none e'er spoke,
who still we know is near.

2 We may not touch Christ's hands and side,
nor follow where Christ trod;
but in confessing we rejoice:
our Savior and our God!

3 Help then, O Christ, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
To call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found:

4 That, when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
We may behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives,” by John Hutton, Tune: DUKE STREET, arr. By Lloyd Larson

BENEDICTION.....

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John 20:21

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“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

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Contributors: Lloyd Larson

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John 20:21

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.