



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

04/19/26

11:00am

WERE NOT OUR HEARTS
GRADUALLY CATCHING FIRE
WITHIN US
AS HE SPOKE TO US
ON THE ROAD ?



Cover Art: The 'Road to Emmaus' icon by Sister Marie Paul OSB of the Mount of Olives Monastery, Jerusalem (1990), commissioned by Father Thomas Rosica

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

APRIL 19, 2026

WELCOME.....

CALL TO WORSHIP.....

One: The story of Easter continues! Where will you look for the risen Christ?

Many: With curiosity and wonder, we will seek Christ in scripture, action, and love for one another.

One: Christ was made known in the breaking of bread.

Many: May Christ be made known in our gathering today.

One: Let us celebrate God, who walks with us on every road.

Many: We will celebrate God with open hearts, ready to recognize Christ and be Christ for one another.

HYMN #70 God Is Here! 1,2,4

1 God is here! As we your people,
meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
Here are table, font, and pulpit,
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

4 Sovereign God, of earth and heaven,
in an age of change and doubt,
Keep us faithful to the gospel,
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's celebration,
all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

OPENING REFLECTION.....

Tim Caffee, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....

Luke 24:13-25, The Message

13-16 That same day two of them were walking to the village Emmaus, about seven miles out of Jerusalem. They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened. In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them. But they were not able to recognize who he was.

17-18 He asked, “What’s this you’re discussing so intently as you walk along?”

They just stood there, long-faced, like they had lost their best friend. Then one of them, his name was Cleopas, said, “Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn’t heard what’s happened during the last few days?”

19-24 He said, “What has happened?”

They said, “The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene. He was a man of God, a prophet, dynamic in work and word, blessed by both God and all the people. Then our high priests and leaders betrayed him, got him sentenced to death, and crucified him. And we had our hopes up that he was the One, the One about to deliver Israel. And it is now the third day since it happened. But now some of our women have completely confused us. Early this morning they were at the tomb and couldn’t find his body. They came back with the story that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. Some of our friends went off to the tomb to check and found it empty just as the women said, but they didn’t see Jesus.”

25-27 Then he said to them, “So thick-headed! So slow-hearted! Why can’t you simply believe all that the prophets said? Don’t you see that these things had to happen, that the Messiah had to suffer and only then enter into his glory?” Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out everything in the Scriptures that referred to him.

28-31 They came to the edge of the village where they were headed. He acted as if he were going on but they pressed him: “Stay and have supper with us. It’s nearly evening; the day is done.” So he went in with them. And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them. At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared.

32 Back and forth they talked. “Didn’t we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road, as he opened up the Scriptures for us?”

33-34 They didn't waste a minute. They were up and on their way back to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and their friends gathered together, talking away: "It's really happened! The Master has been raised up—Simon saw him!"

35 Then the two went over everything that happened on the road and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

Lucas 24:13-35, La Palabra (Hispanoamérica)

13 Ese mismo día, dos de los discípulos se dirigían a una aldea llamada Emaús, distante unos once kilómetros de Jerusalén. 14 Mientras iban hablando de los recientes acontecimientos, 15 conversando y discutiendo entre ellos, Jesús mismo se les acercó y se puso a caminar a su lado. 16 Pero tenían los ojos tan ofuscados que no lo reconocieron. 17 Entonces Jesús les preguntó:

— ¿Qué es eso que discuten mientras van de camino?

Se detuvieron con el semblante ensombrecido, 18 y uno de ellos, llamado Cleofás, le contestó:

— Seguramente tú eres el único en toda Jerusalén que no se ha enterado de lo que ha pasado allí estos días.

19 Él preguntó:

— ¿Pues qué ha pasado?

Le dijeron:

— Lo de Jesús de Nazaret, que era un profeta poderoso en hechos y palabras delante de Dios y de todo el pueblo. 20 Los jefes de nuestros sacerdotes y nuestras autoridades lo entregaron para que lo condenaran a muerte y lo crucificaran. 21 Nosotros teníamos la esperanza de que él iba a ser el libertador de Israel, pero ya han pasado tres días desde que sucedió todo esto. 22 Verdad es que algunas mujeres de nuestro grupo nos han desconcertado, pues fueron de madrugada al sepulcro 23 y, al no encontrar su cuerpo, volvieron diciendo que también se les habían aparecido unos ángeles y les habían dicho que él está vivo. 24 Algunos de los nuestros acudieron después al sepulcro y lo encontraron todo tal y como las mujeres habían dicho. Pero a él no lo vieron.

25 Jesús, entonces, les dijo:

— ¡Qué lentos son ustedes para comprender y cuánto les cuesta creer lo dicho por los profetas! 26 ¿No tenía que sufrir el Mesías todo esto antes de ser glorificado?

27 Y, empezando por Moisés y siguiendo por todos los profetas, les explicó cada uno de los pasajes de las Escrituras que se referían a él mismo.

28 Cuando llegaron a la aldea adonde se dirigían, Jesús hizo ademán de seguir adelante. 29 Pero ellos le dijeron, insistiendo mucho:

— Quédate con nosotros, porque atardece ya y la noche se echa encima.

Él entró y se quedó con ellos. 30 Luego, cuando se sentaron juntos a la mesa, Jesús tomó el pan, dio gracias a Dios, lo partió y se lo dio. 31 En aquel momento se les abrieron los ojos y lo reconocieron; pero él desapareció de su vista. 32 Entonces se dijeron el uno al otro:

— ¿No nos ardía ya el corazón cuando conversábamos con él por el camino y nos explicaba las Escrituras?

33 En el mismo instante emprendieron el camino de regreso a Jerusalén, donde encontraron reunidos a los Once y a todos los demás, 34 que les dijeron:

— Es cierto que el Señor ha resucitado y se ha aparecido a Simón.

35 Ellos, por su parte, contaron también lo que les había sucedido en el camino y cómo habían reconocido a Jesús cuando partía el pan.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #461 Let Us Hope When Hope Seems Hopeless 1,2,3

Let us hope when hope seems hopeless,
When the dreams we dreamed have died.
When the morning breaks in brightness,
Hunger shall be satisfied.

One who sows the fields with weeping
Shall retrace the sorrowing way
And rejoice in harvest bounty
At the breaking of the day.

Faith and hope in love's compassion
Will survive though knowledge cease,
Though the tongues of joy fall silent,
Dull the words of prophecies.

Faith shall see and trust its object;
Hope shall set its anchor sure;
Love shall bloom in Love eternal.
Faith and hope and love endure.

Like a child outgrowing childhood,
Setting childhood things away,
We will learn to live in freedom,

In the life of God's new day.
Now we see as in a mirror,
Then we shall see face to face,
Understand how love's compassion
Blossoms through amazing Grace.

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

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.....

"Mothering God" words by Jean Jantzen, music by Tom Trenney. Mathena Page, soprano

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 #349 "I Come With Joy" 1,3,4,5

1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
The life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.

The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

4 And thus we meet, and better know
the Presence, ever near,
And join our hearts and sing with joy
that Christ is risen here,
that Christ is risen here.

5 Together met, together bound
in friendship we will stay,
And go with joy to love the world
and live the way we pray,
and live the way we pray.

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

Tim Caffee, piano

BENEDICTION.....

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“Mothering God”

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“I Come With Joy”

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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.