



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

05/03/26

11:00am

I am
the Way,
the Truth
and the
Life

John 14:6

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

May 03, 2026

WELCOME.....

CALL TO WORSHIP.....

One: Jesus said “Do not let your hearts be troubled.”

Many: This is the way of Jesus: to trust God, even when the path ahead feels uncertain.

One: Jesus said “In God’s house there are many dwelling places.”

Many: This is the way of Jesus: to build a place where all are welcomed, known, and held in love.

One: Jesus said “The one who believes in me will do what I do and in fact, will do even greater things than these.”

Many: This is the way of Jesus: to love one another as God has loved us.

One: Jesus said “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

Many: Let us live out our faith as we celebrate God in community.

HYMN #407 “How Firm a Foundation”

1 How firm a foundation for you has been laid,

by God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!

What more can God say than to you has been said,

to you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2 “Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,

for I am your God, and will still give you aid;

I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand

upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand.”

3 “When through the deep waters I call you to go,

the rivers of woe shall not over you flow;

For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,

delivering you from your deepest distress.”

4 “When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,

my grace all-sufficient shall be your supply;

the flame shall not hurt you; for I have designed

your soul to make pure just as gold is refined.”

OPENING REFLECTION.....
“I Hear Thy Welcome Voice,” based on WELCOME VOICE, by Lewis Hartsough, arr. By John Purifoy. Dorenda Morse, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....

John 14:1-14, adapted from the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In God's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him, “Sir, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to God except through me. 7 If you know me, you will know God also. From now on you do know God and have seen God.” 8 Philip said to him, “Sir, show us God, and we will be satisfied.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen God. How can you say, ‘Show us God?’ 10 Do you not believe that I am in God and the God is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but God who dwells in me does these works. 11 Believe me that I am in God and God is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. 12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to God. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that God may be glorified in God's Child. 14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Juan 14, Nueva Versión Internacional

14 »No se angustien. Confíen en Dios y confíen también en mí.[a] 2 En el hogar de mi Padre hay muchas viviendas. Si no fuera así, ¿les habría dicho yo a ustedes que voy a

prepararles un lugar allí? 3 Y si me voy y se lo preparo, vendré para llevármelos conmigo. Así ustedes estarán donde yo esté. 4 Ustedes ya conocen el camino para ir adonde yo voy.

Jesús, el camino al Padre

5 Dijo entonces Tomás:

—Señor, no sabemos a dónde vas, así que ¿cómo podemos conocer el camino?

6 —Yo soy el camino, la verdad y la vida —contestó Jesús—. Nadie llega al Padre sino por mí. **7** Si ustedes realmente me conocieran, conocerían[b] también a mi Padre. Y ya desde este momento lo conocen y lo han visto.

8 —Señor —dijo Felipe—, muéstranos al Padre y con eso nos basta.

9 Jesús le contestó:

—¡Pero, Felipe! ¿Tanto tiempo llevo ya entre ustedes y todavía no me conoces? El que me ha visto a mí ha visto al Padre. ¿Cómo puedes decirme: “Muéstranos al Padre”? **10** ¿Acaso no crees que yo estoy en el Padre y que el Padre está en mí? Las palabras que yo les comunico, no las hablo como cosa mía, sino que es el Padre que está en mí, quien realiza sus obras. **11** Créanme cuando digo que yo estoy en el Padre y que el Padre está en mí o al menos, créanme por las obras mismas. **12** Les aseguro que el que cree en mí también hará las obras que yo hago y aun las hará mayores, porque yo vuelvo al Padre. **13** Cualquier cosa que ustedes pidan en mi nombre, yo la haré; así será glorificado el Padre en el Hijo. **14** Lo que pidan en mi nombre, yo lo haré.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #493 “O Jesus I Have Promised”

1 O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me,
my Savior and my Friend;
I shall not fear life’s struggles

if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

2 O let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will!

O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control!
O speak, and make me listen,
O guardian of my soul!

3 O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you
that where you are in glory
your servant shall be, too;
And, Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow
my Savior and my Friend!

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

John 4:6

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” from Requiem by Gabriel Fauré

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.....

COMMUNION HYMN #331 “Come My Way, My Truth, My Life”

1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:

such a way as gives us breath;

Such a truth as ends all strife;

such a life as conquers death.

2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:

such a light as shows a feast;

Such a feast as mends in length;

such a strength as makes a guest.

3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

such a joy as none can move;

Such a love as none can part;

such a heart as joys in love.

COMMUNION.....

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King,” by John Darwall, arr. By Michael Wilson

Dorenda Morse, piano

BENEDICTION.....

Permissions:

“Rejoice the Lord Is King” Contributors Lewis Hartsough and John Purifoy

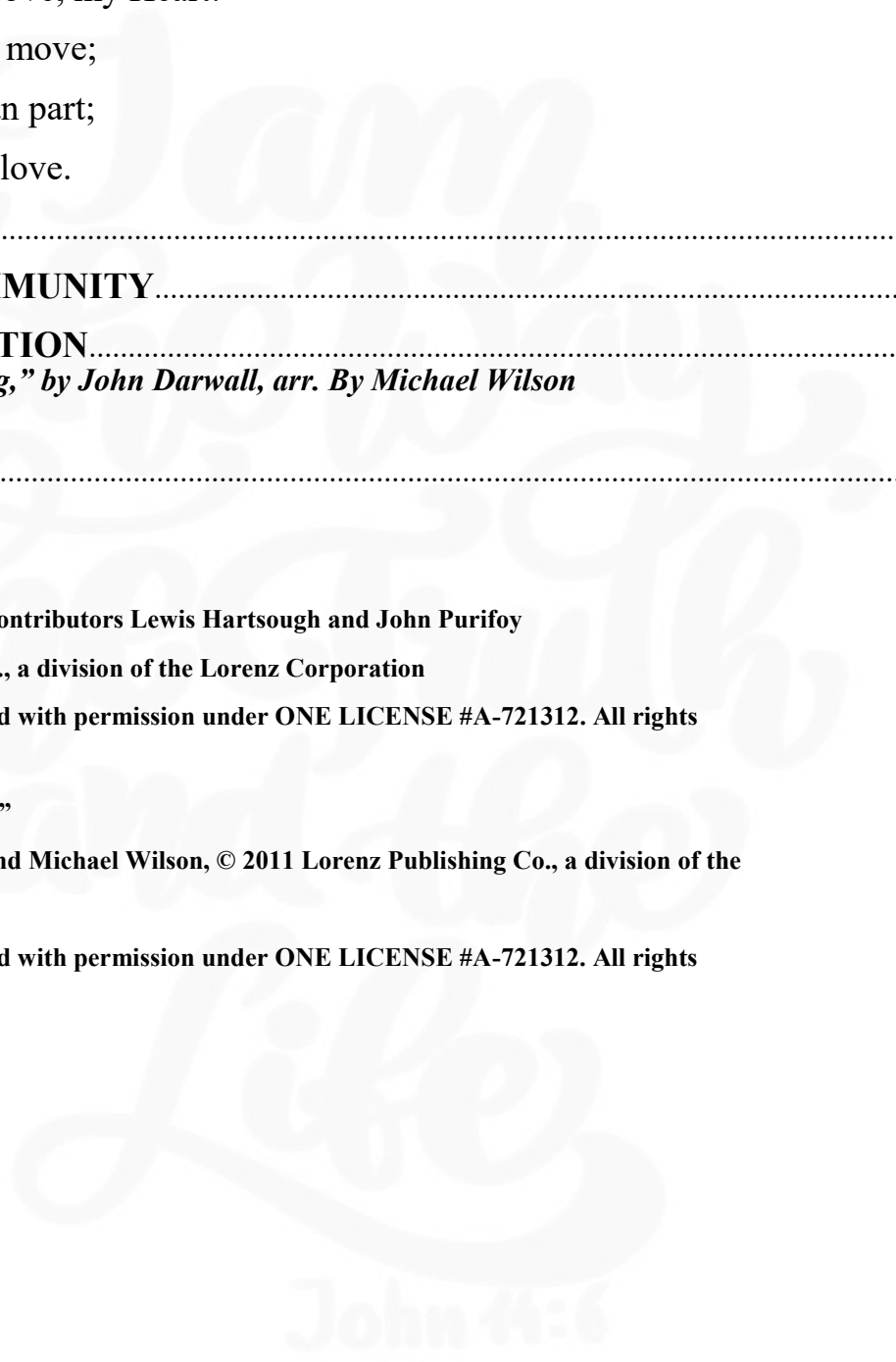
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“I Hear Your Welcome Voice”

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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.