



CHURCH OF THE  
**GOOD SHEPHERD**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**05/17/26**

**11:00am**



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

***May 17, 2026***

**WELCOME**.....

**HYMN #401 “O God in Whom All Life Begins”**

**1** O God in whom all life begins,  
who births the seed to fruit,  
bestow your blessing on our lives;  
here let your love find root.  
Bring forth in us the Spirit’s gifts  
of patience, joy, and peace;  
deliver us from numbing fear,  
and grant our faith increase.

**2** Unite in mutual ministry  
our minds and hands and hearts  
that we may have the grace to seek  
the power your peace imparts.  
So let our varied gifts combine  
to glorify your Name  
that in all things by word and deed  
we may your love proclaim.

**3** Through tears and laughter, grief and joy,  
enlarge our trust and care;  
so bind us in community  
that we may risk and dare.  
Be with us when we gather here  
to worship, sing, and pray,  
then send us forth in power and faith  
to live the words we say.

**OPENING REFLECTION**.....

*“All Things New” music by Elaine Hagenberg, text by Frances Havergal adapted from Rev. 21:5-6  
Chancel Choir*

*Light after darkness, gain after loss.  
Strength after weakness, crown after cross.  
Sweet after bitter, hope after fears  
Home after wand’ring, praise after tears.*

*Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end,  
God is making all things new,  
Streams of living water shall wash away each tear.  
God is making all things new, God is making all things new.*

*Sight after myste'ry, sun after rain.  
Joy after sorrow, peace after pain.  
Near after distant, gleam after gloom,  
Love after loneliness, life after tomb.*

*Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end,  
God is making all things new,  
Streams of living water shall wash away each tear.  
God is making all things new, God is making all things new.*

**JOYS AND CONCERNS.....**

**PRAYER.....**

**SCRIPTURE.....**

**Psalm 68:1-12, adapted from the New International Version**

**For the director of music. Of David. A psalm. A song.**

- 1** May God arise, and may God's enemies be scattered; may God's foes flee before God.
- 2** May they be blown away like smoke—or disappear as wax melts before the fire, may the wicked perish in the presence of God.
- 3** But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful.
- 4** Sing to God, sing in praise of God's name, extol the One who rides on the clouds; rejoice before God.
- 5** God is a father to the fatherless and an advocate for widows in God's holy dwelling.
- 6** God sets the lonely in families, and leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.
- 7** When you, God, went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,
- 8** the earth shook, the heavens poured down rain, even Sinai was moved at the presence of our God.
- 9** You gave abundant showers, O God; and refreshed your inheritance when it was weary.
- 10** Your congregation dwelled in the land, and from your bounty, God, you provided for the poor.
- 11** God announces the word, and great was the company the women who proclaim it:
- 12** "Kings and armies flee in haste; while the women who stay home divide the plunder.

**Salmos 68:1-12, Nueva Versión Internacional**

**Al director musical. Salmo de David. Cántico.**

- 1** Que se levante Dios, que sean dispersados sus enemigos, que huyan de su presencia los que lo odian.

**2** Que desaparezcan del todo, como humo que se disipa con el viento; que perezcan ante Dios los malvados, como cera que se derrite en el fuego.

**3** Pero que los justos se alegren y se regocijen; que estén felices y alegres delante de Dios.

**4** Canten a Dios, canten salmos a su nombre; aclamen a quien cabalga sobre las nubes, y regocijense en su presencia. ¡Su nombre es el Señor!

**5** Padre de huérfanos y defensor de viudas es Dios en su morada santa.

**6** Dios da un hogar a los Desamparados y dicha a los cautivos que libera; pero los rebeldes habitarán en el desierto.

**7** Cuando saliste, oh Dios, al frente de tu pueblo, cuando a través del desierto marchaste, Selah

**8** la tierra se estremeció, el cielo derramó su Lluvia delante de Dios, el Dios de Sinaí, delante de Dios, el Dios de Israel.

**9** Tú, oh Dios, diste abundantes lluvias; reanimaste a tu extenuada herencia.

**10** Tu familia se estableció en la tierra que en tu bondad, oh Dios, preparaste para el pobre.

**11** El Señor ha emitido la palabra y las mensajeras que la proclaman son una multitud poderosa:

**12** «Van huyendo los reyes y sus tropas; en las casas, las mujeres se reparten el botín:

### **Acts 1: 6-16, 21-22, adapted from the New Living Translation**

**6** So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Sir, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”

**7** He replied, “God alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

**9** After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. **10** As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. **11** “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

**12** Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. **13** When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying. Present were Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the zealot), and Judas (son of James). **14** They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.

**15** During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them. **16** “Brothers,” he said, “the Scriptures had to be fulfilled concerning Judas, who guided those who arrested Jesus. This was predicted long ago by the Holy Spirit, speaking through King David.

**21** “So now we must choose a replacement for Judas from among the disciples who were with us the entire time we were traveling with Jesus— **22** from the time he was baptized by John until the day he was taken from us. Whoever is chosen will join us as a witness of Jesus’ resurrection.”

## **Hechos 1: 6-16, 21-22, Nueva Versión Internacional**

**6** Entonces los que estaban reunidos con él preguntaron:

—Señor, ¿es ahora cuando vas a restablecer el reino a Israel?

**7** —No les toca a ustedes conocer la hora ni el momento determinados por la autoridad misma del Padre —contestó Jesús—. **8** Pero cuando venga el Espíritu Santo sobre ustedes, recibirán poder y serán mis testigos tanto en Jerusalén como en toda Judea y Samaria, hasta en los confines de la tierra.

**9** Habiendo dicho esto, mientras ellos lo miraban, fue llevado a las alturas hasta que una nube lo ocultó de su vista. **10** Ellos se quedaron mirando fijamente al cielo mientras él se alejaba. De repente, se les acercaron dos hombres vestidos de blanco **11** que les dijeron: —Galileos, ¿qué hacen aquí mirando al cielo? Este mismo Jesús, que ha sido llevado de entre ustedes al cielo, vendrá otra vez de la misma manera que lo han visto irse.

Elección de Matías para reemplazar a Judas

**12** Entonces regresaron a Jerusalén desde el monte llamado de los Olivos, situado aproximadamente a un kilómetro de la ciudad.[a]**13** Cuando llegaron, subieron al lugar donde se alojaban. Estaban allí:

Pedro, Juan, Santiago, Andrés,

Felipe, Tomás,

Bartolomé, Mateo,

Santiago, hijo de Alfeo, Simón el Zelote y Judas, hijo de Santiago.

**14** Todos, en un mismo espíritu, se dedicaban a la oración, junto con las mujeres, y con los hermanos de Jesús y su madre María.

**15** Por aquellos días Pedro se puso de pie en medio de los creyentes,[b] que eran un grupo como de ciento veinte personas, y dijo: **16** «Hermanos, tenía que cumplirse la Escritura que, por boca de David, había predicho el Espíritu Santo en cuanto a Judas, el que sirvió de guía a los que arrestaron a Jesús.

**21** Por tanto, es preciso que se una a nosotros uno de los que nos acompañaban todo el tiempo que el Señor Jesús vivió entre nosotros, **22** desde que Juan bautizaba hasta el día en que Jesús fue tomado de entre nosotros y recibido en las alturas. Es necesario que uno de ellos sea junto a nosotros testigo de la resurrección».

# A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

## **HYMN #522 “I Love to Tell the Story” 1,2**

**1** I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus’ radiant glory,  
of Jesus’ endless love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know it’s true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else can do.

### **Refrain:**

I love to tell the story;  
and when I am in glory  
I’ll tell the old, old story  
of Jesus’ endless love.

**2** I love to tell the story;  
more wonderful it seems  
than all the golden visions  
of all our golden dreams.  
I love to tell the story,  
I tell it now to you  
because I want to share it,  
because I know it’s true. **[Refrain]**

**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**.....

*“Exuberant Joy,” by Arnold Sherman. Joyful Noise Bell Choir*

**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**.....

**RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES**.....

**I AM ONE VOICE**.....

**LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY**.....

**CLOSING REFLECTION**.....

*“12 Bell Boogie,” by Linda R. Lamb Joyful Noise Bell Choir*

**BENEDICTION**.....

**POSTLUDE**.....

Tim Caffee, piano

**Prayer request:**

**Please pray for Maribeth to help her through transitions**

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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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