



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

07/05/26

11:00am

Proclaim
LIBERTY
THROUGHOUT
ALL THE LAND
UNTO ALL THE
Inhabitants thereof
— LEVITICUS 25:10 —



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

July 05, 2026

WELCOME.....

CALL TO WORSHIP.....

One: On this weekend when our nation celebrates independence, we remember God's own expansive vision of liberty.

Many: We commit ourselves to the work of justice, compassion, and shared liberation.

One: Let us celebrate the God who breaks chains, welcomes the stranger, and calls communities to repair what is broken.

Many: We come to proclaim a freedom rooted in love, shaped by justice, and shared with all inhabitants of the land.

HYMN #164 Arise, Your Light Is Come 1-4

1 Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God
Which shines on you today!

2 Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door,
Proclaim the captive's liberty,
Good tidings to the poor.

3 Arise, you light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken-heart-ed ones
And comfort those who mourn.

4 Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

OPENING REFLECTION.....

Sonata Pathetique, Op. 13, Adagio Cantabile, Ludwig van Beethoven. Dorenda Morse, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....



Leviticus 25:1-7, 11-23, The Message

25 1-7 God spoke to Moses at Mount Sinai: “Speak to the People of Israel. Tell them, When you enter the land which I am going to give you, the land will observe a Sabbath to God. Sow your fields, prune your vineyards, and take in your harvests for six years. But the seventh year the land will take a Sabbath of complete and total rest, a Sabbath to God; you will not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. Don’t reap what grows of itself; don’t harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land gets a year of complete and total rest. But you can eat from what the land volunteers during the Sabbath year—you and your men and women servants, your hired hands, and the foreigners who live in the country, and, of course, also your livestock and the wild animals in the land can eat from it. Whatever the land volunteers of itself can be eaten.

11-12 Sanctify the fiftieth year; make it a holy year. Proclaim freedom all over the land to everyone who lives in it—a Jubilee for you: Each person will go back to his family’s property and reunite with his extended family. The fiftieth year is your Jubilee year: Don’t sow; don’t reap what volunteers itself in the fields; don’t harvest the untended vines because it’s the Jubilee and a holy year for you. You’re permitted to eat from whatever volunteers itself in the fields.

13 “In this year of Jubilee everyone returns home to his family property.

14-17 “If you sell or buy property from one of your countrymen, don’t cheat him. Calculate the purchase price on the basis of the number of years since the Jubilee. He is obliged to set the sale price on the basis of the number of harvests remaining until the next Jubilee. The more years left, the more money; you can raise the price. But the fewer years left, the less money; decrease the price. What you are buying and selling in fact is the number of crops you’re going to harvest. Don’t cheat each other. Fear your God. I am God, your God.

18-22 “Keep my decrees and observe my laws and you will live secure in the land. The land will yield its fruit; you will have all you can eat and will live safe and secure. Do I hear you ask, ‘What are we going to eat in the seventh year if we don’t plant or harvest?’ I assure you, I will send such a blessing in the sixth year that the land will yield enough for three years. While you plant in the eighth year, you will eat from the old crop and continue until the harvest of the ninth year comes in.

23-24 “The land cannot be sold permanently because the land is mine and you are foreigners—you are my tenants.

Levítico 25:1-7, 11-23, La Palabra (Hispanoamérica)

25 El Señor se dirigió a Moisés en el monte Sinaí y le dijo:

2 — Habla a los israelitas y diles: Cuando hayan entrado en la tierra que yo les entrego,

la tierra deberá disfrutar de un tiempo de descanso en honor del Señor. 3 Seis años sembrarás tu campo, y seis años podarás tu viña y recogerás su producto. 4 Pero el séptimo año la tierra disfrutará de descanso completo en honor del Señor: no sembrarás tu campo, ni podarás tu viña. 5 No cosecharás los rebrotes de la última siega, ni vendimiarás las uvas que pueda producir tu viñedo; será un año de descanso para la tierra. 6 Lo que produzca espontáneamente la tierra en este año de descanso les servirá de alimento a ti, a tu siervo, a tu sierva, a tu criado y al extranjero que viva contigo; 7 también a tu ganado y a los animales que haya en tu tierra, les servirá de alimento todo lo que ella produzca.

11 El año cincuenta será para ustedes año jubilar: no sembrarán, ni cosecharán los rebrotes de la última siega, ni vendimiarán las uvas que pueda producir su viñedo. 12 Es año jubilar y debe ser sagrado para ustedes: comerán sólo lo que la tierra espontáneamente produzca. 13 En este año de jubileo cada uno recuperará su propiedad.

14 Por tanto, si compran o venden algo a su prójimo, que nadie engañe a su hermano. 15 En lo que compres a tu prójimo se tendrá en cuenta el número de años pasados después del año jubilar; asimismo, él te venderá teniendo en cuenta el número de años de cosecha que quedan. 16 El precio aumentará o disminuirá en proporción a los años que falten para el próximo año jubilar; la venta se hará según el número de las cosechas. 17 Y que ninguno engañe a su prójimo; antes bien, respeten a su Dios. Yo soy el Señor, su Dios.

18 Cumplan mis leyes y guarden mis mandamientos; pónganlos en práctica y así vivirán seguros en la tierra, 19 una tierra que dará su fruto del que comerán hasta saciarse, viviendo seguros en ella. 20 Tal vez se pregunten: ¿y qué comeremos el séptimo año, pues no vamos a sembrar ni a recoger nuestros frutos? 21 Pues yo les contesto que les enviaré mi bendición el sexto año, de manera que haya fruto para tres años. 22 El año octavo sembrarán, pero seguirán comiendo de la cosecha anterior; así harán hasta el año noveno en que llegue el nuevo fruto.

23 La tierra no se podrá vender a perpetuidad, porque la tierra es mía y ustedes son como residentes extranjeros en mi propiedad.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #563 We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

1 We cannot own the sunlit sky,

The moon, the wild-flowers growing,

For we are part of all that is

Within life's river flowing,

With open hands receive and share
The gifts of God's creation,
That all may have a abundant life
In every earthly nation.;

2 When bodies shiver in the night
And, weary, wait for morning,
When children have no bread but tears,
And war-horns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake,
To join in common labor,
That all may have abundant life
In oneness with their neighbor.

3 God call humanity to join,
As partners in creating
A future free from want or fear,
Life's goodness celebrating
That new world beckons from afar,
Invites our shared endeavor,
That all may have abundant life
And peace endure forever.

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.....

*“Peace Like a River, Kum Ba Ya,” Traditional Spirituals, arr. By Jean Anne Shafferman
Axel Catterall, Chris Keelan, duet*

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 #547 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” 1,2,3

1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,

that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,

was blind, but now I see.

2 ‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

and grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear

the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,

I have already come;

‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,

and grace will lead me home.

COMMUNION.....

*“I Need Thee Every Hour,” based on SEED by Robert Lowry, arr. By Lloyd Larson
Dorenda Morse, piano*

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

“You Are My All in All,” by Dennis Jernigan, arr. By Mark Hayes. Dorenda Morse, piano

BENEDICTION.....

“Permissions:

“Arise, Your Light is Come”

Contributors: Ruth Duck

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“Peace Like a River, Kum Ba Ya”

Contributors: Jean Anne Shafferman

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“We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky”

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“I Need Thee Every Hour”

Contributors: Lloyd Larson

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“You Are My All in All”

Contributors: Dennis Jernigan

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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.