



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

07/12/26

11:00am



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

July 12, 2026

Worship Leader: **Thomas Britton**

WELCOME.....

CALL TO WORSHIP.....

One: Come, people of God. The Sower is still scattering seeds with generous hands.

Many: May our hearts be open to receive God's gifts of love, hope, and truth.

One: Some seeds fall on rocky ground, some among thorns, and some in rich soil.

Many: We gather not because we are perfect, but because we are growing.

One: Together, we make room for God's Spirit to take root and flourish.

Many: Let us celebrate the One who never stops sowing love.

HYMN #70 "God Is Here" 1,3,4

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.

3 Here our children find a welcome

in the Shepherd's flock and fold;

Here as bread and wine are taken,

Christ sustains us as of old.

Here the servants of the Servant

seek in worship to explore

what it means in daily living

to believe and to adore.

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.....
“Berceuse (from Jocelyn)” by Benjamin Godard. Dorenda Morse, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. 6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 If you have ears, hear!”

18 “Hear, then, the parable of the sower. 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. 23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Mateo 13:1-9, Nueva Versión Internacional

13 Ese mismo día salió Jesús de la casa y se sentó a la orilla del lago. 2 La multitud que se reunió para verlo era tan grande que él tuvo que subir a una barca donde se sentó mientras toda la gente estaba de pie en la orilla. 3 Y dijo en parábolas muchas cosas como estas: «Un sembrador salió a sembrar. 4 Mientras iba esparciendo las semillas, una parte cayó junto al camino, llegaron los pájaros y se las comieron. 5 Otra parte cayó en terreno pedregoso, sin mucha tierra. Esas semillas brotaron pronto porque la tierra no era profunda; 6 pero cuando salió el sol, las plantas se marchitaron y por no tener raíz se secaron. 7 Otra parte de las semillas cayó entre espinos que, al crecer, ahogaron las plantas. 8 Pero las otras semillas cayeron en buen terreno, en el que se dio una cosecha que rindió hasta cien, sesenta y treinta veces más de lo que se había sembrado. 9 El que tenga oídos, que oiga».

18 »Escuchen ahora lo que significa la parábola del sembrador: 19 Cuando alguien oye la palabra acerca del reino y no la entiende, viene el maligno y arrebató lo que se sembró en su corazón. Esta es la semilla sembrada junto al camino. 20 El que recibió la semilla que cayó en el suelo lleno de piedras es el que oye la palabra y de inmediato la recibe con alegría. 21 Pero como no tiene raíz, dura poco tiempo. Cuando surgen problemas o persecución a causa de la palabra, enseguida se aparta de ella. 22 El que recibió la semilla que cayó entre espinos es el que oye la palabra, pero las preocupaciones de esta vida y el engaño de las riquezas la ahogan. Por eso, la semilla no llega a dar fruto. 23 Pero el que recibió la semilla que cayó en buen terreno es el que oye la palabra y la entiende. Este sí produce una cosecha hasta cien, sesenta y treinta veces más».

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #172 “Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult” 1,2,3

1 Jesus calls us, o’er the tumult

of our life’s wild, restless sea;

Day by day that voice still calls us,

saying, “Christian, follow me.”

2 As of old, Saint Andrew heard it

by the Galilean lake,

Turned from home and toil and kindred,

leaving all for Jesus’ sake.

3 Jesus calls us from the worship
of the treasures we adore,
From each idol that would keep us,
saying, “Christian, love me more.”

SERMON.....Rev. Anna Taylor Sweringen

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.....

*“Take My Life and Let It Be,” words by Frances R. Havergal, Music by Henri
A.C. Malan, arr. by Tommy Walker
Esther Moses, solo*

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 #422 Come, O Thankful People, Come 1,2,3

1 Come, O thankful people, come,

raise the song of harvest home;

all is safely gathered in

as the winter storms begin;

God our Maker doth provide

for our wants to be supplied;

come to God's own temple, come,

raise the song of harvest home.

2 All the blessings of the field,

all the stores the gardens yield,

all the fruits in full supply

ripened 'neath the summer sky,

All that spring with bounteous hand

scatters o'er the smiling land,

all that liberal autumn pours

from its rich o'erflowing stores.

3 These to you, our God, we owe,

source from whom all blessing flow;

and for these our songs we raise,

grateful vows and solemn praise.

Come, then, thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
come to God's own temple, come,

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

*“All Hail the Power of Jesus”; Name,” based on CORONATION by Oliver
Holden, arr. By Lloyd Larson
Dorenda Morse, piano*

BENEDICTION.....

“God Is Here!”

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“Take My Life and Let it Be”

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“All Hail the Power of Jesus Name”

Contributors: Lloyd Larson

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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

Church of the Good Shepherd desires to be an

Mission Statement

The mission of Church of the Good

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

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