

“Come.” So Peter
got out of the boat,
started walking on
the water, and came
toward Jesus.

-Matthew 14:29



WELCOME.....

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, place your trust in God.

Many: We want to trust God, but we struggle to quiet our doubts.

One: Jesus will reach for you. He will not let you down.

Many: We hear his invitation to take a step of faith.

One: May God be with us as we dare to follow Jesus.

Many: May God be with us as we answer the call to reach out to God and one another.

HYMN #407 “How Firm a Foundation” 1,2,3

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.”

OPENING REFLECTION.....

“Sweet Hour of Prayer” arranged by Mark Hayes. Tim Caffee, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

Matthew 14: 22-33, New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition

22 Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. 25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

28 Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Mateo 14:22-33, Reina-Valera 1960

22 En seguida Jesús hizo a sus discípulos entrar en la barca e ir delante de él a la otra ribera, entre tanto que él despedía a la multitud. 23 Despedida la multitud, subió al monte a orar aparte; y cuando llegó la noche, estaba allí solo. 24 Y ya la barca estaba en medio del mar, azotada por las olas; porque el viento era contrario. 25 Mas a la cuarta vigilia de la noche, Jesús vino a ellos andando sobre el mar. 26 Y los discípulos, viéndole andar sobre el mar, se turbaron, diciendo: ¡Un fantasma! Y dieron voces de miedo. 27 Pero en seguida Jesús les habló, diciendo: ¡Tened ánimo; yo soy, no temáis! 28 Entonces le respondió Pedro, y dijo: Señor, si eres tú, manda que yo vaya a ti sobre

las aguas. 29 Y él dijo: Ven. Y descendiendo Pedro de la barca, andaba sobre las aguas para ir a Jesús. 30 Pero al ver el fuerte viento, tuvo miedo; y comenzando a hundirse, dio voces, diciendo: ¡Señor, sálvame! 31 Al momento Jesús, extendiendo la mano, asió de él, y le dijo: ¡Hombre de poca fe! ¿Por qué dudaste? 32 Y cuando ellos subieron en la barca, se calmó el viento. 33 Entonces los que estaban en la barca vinieron y le adoraron, diciendo: Verdaderamente eres Hijo de Dios.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #472 Precious Lord, Take My Hand 1,2,3

1 Precious Lord, take my hand

Lead me on, let me stand

I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm lone

Through the storm, through the night

Lead me on to the light

Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

2 When my way grows drear precious Lord linger near

When my light is almost gone

Hear my cry, hear my call

Hold my hand lest I fall

Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

3 When the darkness appears and the night draws near

And the day is past and gone

At the river I stand

Guide my feet, hold my hand

Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

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.....

“How I Trust Him:” Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus and He Hideth My Soul arr. Hayes
Tim Caffee, piano

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 #444 We Are Often Tossed and Driven 1,2,3

1 We are tossed and driven
on the restless sea of time,
Somber skies and howling tempests
oft succeed a bright sunshine;
In that land of perfect day,
when the mists have rolled away,
We will understand it better by and by.

Refrain:

By and by, when the morning comes,
when the saints of God are gathered home,
We'll tell the story how we've overcome:
for we'll understand it better by and by.

2 We are often destitute
of the things that life demands,
Want of food and want of shelter,
thirsty hills and barren lands;
In our God our trust's assured,
and according to the Word,
We will understand it better by and by. **[Refrain]**

3 Trials dark on every hand,
and we cannot understand
All the ways that God would lead us
to that blessed promised land;
We are guided by God's eye,
and we'll follow till we die,
For we'll understand it better by and by. **[Refrain]**

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

“Shine, Jesus Shine” arr. Mark Hayes Tim Caffee, piano

BENEDICTION.....

Permissions:

““Sweet Hour of Prayer”

Contributors: Mark Hayes

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“How I Trust Him”

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“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

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“Shine, Jesus Shine”

Contributors: Mark Hayes

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