



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

08/30/26

11:00am



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

August 30, 2026

WELCOME.....

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Give thanks to the Holy One, the I Am Who I Am.

Many: We give thanks to God, the source of our being.

One: Let the hearts that seek the Holy One rejoice!

Many: We rejoice in the God of our ancestors, who lives and reigns with all generations.

One: Remember how God worked with our ancestors to love their neighbors and bring healing to the world.

Many: Let us sing praises to the still-speaking God, who continues to lead us with love.

HYMN #24 The God of Abraham Praise 1,2,4

1 The God of Abraham praise,

all praises to God's name,

who was and is and is to be,

Fore'er the same!

The one eternal God,

before what now appears;

the First, the Last:

beyond all thought

through timeless years!

2 God's spirit freely flows,

high surging where it will;

God spoke of old in prophet's word;

that word speaks still.

Established is God's law,

and changeless it shall stand

deep written on the human heart,

in every land.

4 The God of Sarah praise,

all praises to God's name,

who was and is and is to be,

Fore'er the same!

The one eternal God,

before what now appears;

the First, the Last: beyond all thought

through timeless years!

OPENING REFLECTION.....
“Après un rêve” by Gabriel Fauré. Karl Winkler, viola; Linda Gilmour, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....

Exodus 3:1-15, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

3 Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of God appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up.” 4 When God saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” 5 Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” 6 He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. 7 Then God said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, 8 and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9 The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” 11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” 12 He said, “I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.” 13 But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” 14 God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I am has sent me to you.’ ” 15 God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘Yahweh, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’:
This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

Éxodo 3:1-15, Nueva Versión Internacional

3 Un día, Moisés estaba cuidando el rebaño de Jetro, su suegro, que era sacerdote de Madián, y llevó las ovejas hasta el otro extremo del desierto hasta llegar a Horeb, la

montaña de Dios. 2 Estando allí, el ángel del Señor se le apareció entre las llamas de una zarza ardiente. Moisés notó que la zarza estaba envuelta en llamas, pero que no se consumía, 3 así que pensó: «¡Qué increíble! Voy a ver por qué no se consume la zarza». 4 Cuando el Señor vio que Moisés se acercaba a mirar, lo llamó desde la zarza:

—¡Moisés, Moisés!

—Aquí estoy —respondió.

5 —No te acerques más —le dijo Dios—. Quítate las sandalias, porque estás pisando tierra santa. 6 Yo soy el Dios de tu padre. Soy el Dios de Abraham, de Isaac y de Jacob. Al oír esto, Moisés se cubrió el rostro, pues tuvo miedo de mirar a Dios.

7 Pero el Señor siguió diciendo:

—Ciertamente he visto la opresión que sufre mi pueblo en Egipto. Los he escuchado quejarse de sus capataces y conozco bien sus penurias. 8 Así que he descendido para librarlos del poder de los egipcios y sacarlos de ese país, para llevarlos a una tierra buena y espaciosa, tierra donde abundan la leche y la miel. Me refiero al país de los cananeos, hititas, amorreos, ferezeos, heveos y jebuseos. 9 Han llegado a mis oídos los gritos desesperados de los israelitas y he visto también cómo los oprimen los egipcios. 10 Así que disponte a partir. Voy a enviarte al faraón para que saques de Egipto a los israelitas, que son mi pueblo.

11 Pero Moisés dijo a Dios:

—¿Y quién soy yo para presentarme ante el faraón y sacar de Egipto a los israelitas?

12 —Yo estaré contigo —respondió Dios—. Y te voy a dar una señal de que soy yo quien te envía: Cuando hayas sacado de Egipto a mi pueblo, todos ustedes me adorarán [a] en esta montaña.

13 Pero Moisés insistió:

—Supongamos que me presento ante los israelitas y les digo: “El Dios de sus antepasados me ha enviado a ustedes”. Si me preguntan: “¿Y cómo se llama?”. ¿Qué les respondo?

14 —Yo soy el que soy —respondió Dios a Moisés—. Y esto es lo que tienes que decirles a los israelitas: “Yo soy me ha enviado a ustedes”.

15 Además, Dios dijo a Moisés:

—Di esto a los israelitas: “El Señor, el Dios de sus antepasados, el Dios de Abraham, de Isaac y de Jacob, me ha enviado a ustedes.

»”Este es mi nombre eterno;

este es mi nombre
por todas las generaciones”.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #572 When Israel was in Egypt's Land

1 When Israel was in Egypt's land,

Let my people go,

Oppressed so hard they could not stand,

Let my people go.

Refrain:

Go down, Moses,

way down in Egypt's land,

Tell old Pharaoh to

let my people go.

2 "Thus spoke our God," bold Moses said,

"Let my people go;

If not, I'll smite your first-born dead,

Let my people go." **[Refrain]**

3 No more in bondage shall they toil,

Let my people go,

Nor spill their blood on Egypt's soil,

Let my people go. **[Refrain]**

4 Oh, let us all from bondage flee,

Let my people go,

And let us all in Christ be free,

Let my people go. **[Refrain]**

SERMON.....Rev. Dr. Sarah Townes

PASTORAL PRAYER.....

PRAYER OF JESUS

Life Giver,
Who is in Heaven, Holy be Your name,
Your 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.....

Country Dances # 1, 4 - Beethoven. Karl Winkler, viola; Linda Gilmour, 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 #“We Are Called”

1 Come, live in the light
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord
We are called to be light for the kingdom
To live in the freedom of the city of God

We are called to act with justice
We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God

2 Come, open your heart
And show your mercy to all those in fear
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
So all hatred and blindness will be no more

We are called to act with justice
We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God

3 Sing, sing a new song
Sing of that great day when all will be one
God will reign and we'll walk with each other
As sisters and brothers united in love

We are called to act with justice
We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

Country Dances #5, # 6 - Beethoven. Karl Winkler, viola; Linda Gilmour, piano

BENEDICTION.....

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Prayer Request:

Please pray for Maggie and Family for healing. Requested by Maggie



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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