

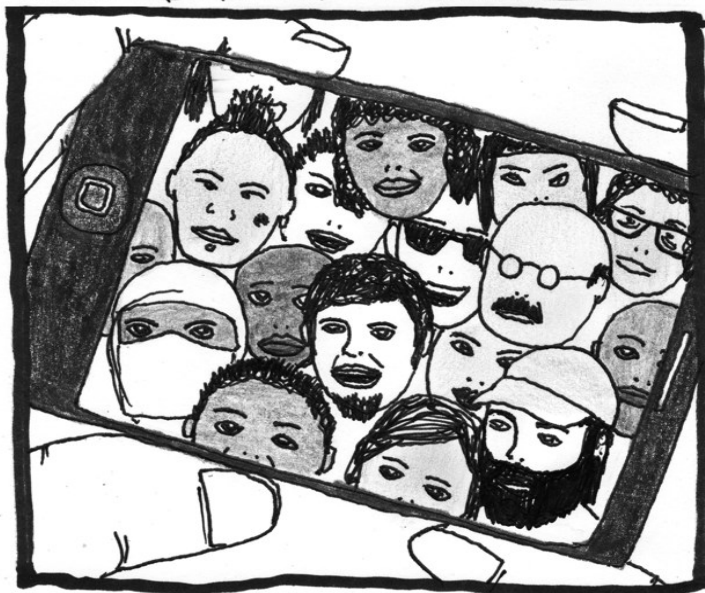


CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

09/13/26

11:00am

JESUS TAKES A SELFIE



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

September 13, 2026

WELCOME.....

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Welcome, neighbors and newcomers, friends and guests.

Many: We gather as a people held together by God's steadfast love.

One: Let us welcome every person with grace.

Many: We welcome one another in all of our differences.

One: Everyone here is created in the image of God: seekers, healers, bridge-builders and justice-seekers.

Many: Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Let us celebrate God together as one.

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.

OPENING REFLECTION.....

"Navajo Prelude for Piano No. 3 from The Navajo Piano (2014), by Connor Chee. Performed with permission of the composer. Dorenda Morse, Piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....

Romans 14:1-12, 16-19, 15:7, adapted from The Message

14 Welcome with open arms believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with—even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently.

2-4 For instance, a person who has been around for a while might well be convinced that he can eat anything on the table, while another, with a different background, might assume he should only be a vegetarian and eat accordingly. But since both are guests at Christ's table, wouldn't it be terribly rude if they fell to criticizing what the other ate or didn't eat? God, after all, invited them both to the table. Do you have any business crossing people off the guest list or interfering with God's welcome? If there are corrections to be made or manners to be learned, God can handle that without your help.

5 Or, say, one person thinks that some days should be set aside as holy and another thinks that each day is pretty much like any other. There are good reasons either way. So, each person is free to follow the convictions of conscience.

6-9 What's important in all this is that if you keep a holy day, keep it for God's sake; if you eat meat, eat it to the glory of God and thank God for steak; if you're a vegetarian, eat vegetables to the glory of God and thank God for broccoli. None of us are permitted to insist on our own way in these matters. It's God we are answerable to—all the way from life to death and everything in between—not each other. That's why Jesus lived and died and then lived again: so that he could be our Master across the entire range of life and death, and free us from the petty tyrannies of each other.

10-12 So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother? And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister? I'd say it leaves you looking pretty silly—or worse. Eventually, we're all going to end up kneeling side by side in the place of judgment, facing God. Your critical and condescending ways aren't going to improve your position there one bit. Read it for yourself in Scripture:

“As I live and breathe,” God says,
“every knee will bow before me;
Every tongue will tell the honest truth
that I and only I am God.”

So mind your own business. You've got your hands full just taking care of your own life before God.

Don't you dare let a piece of God-blessed food become an occasion of soul-poisoning!

17-18 God's kingdom isn't a matter of what you put in your stomach, for goodness' sake. It's what God does with your life as God sets it right, puts it together, and completes it with joy. Your task is to single-mindedly serve Christ. Do that and you'll please the God above you and prove your worth to the people around you.

19 Let's agree to use all our energy in getting along with each other, making peace, and building one another up.

7 Reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Jesus did it; now you do it!

Romanos 14:1-12, 16-19, 15:7, adaptado de The Message, traducido usando Grammarly

14 Reciban con los brazos abiertos a quienes comparten la fe pero no ven las cosas como ustedes. Y no se les echen encima cada vez que hacen o dicen algo con lo que no están de acuerdo, incluso cuando parezca que tienen opiniones muy firmes pero una fe todavía débil. Recuerden que cada quien tiene su propia historia con la que lidiar. Trátenles con delicadeza.

2-4 Por ejemplo, una persona que lleva tiempo en la fe puede estar convencida de que puede comer cualquier cosa que haya en la mesa, mientras que otra, con una historia distinta, puede pensar que solo debe ser vegetariana y comer de acuerdo con eso. Pero, ya que ambas son invitadas a la mesa de Cristo, ¿no sería terriblemente descortés que se pusieran a criticar lo que la otra persona come o deja de comer? Después de todo, Dios invitó a ambas a la mesa. ¿Quiénes son ustedes para tachar a alguien de la lista de invitados o interferir con la bienvenida de Dios? Si hay correcciones que hacer o modales que aprender, Dios puede encargarse de eso sin su ayuda.

5 O supongamos que una persona piensa que ciertos días deben apartarse como santos, y otra piensa que todos los días son, más o menos, como cualquier otro. Hay buenas razones de ambos lados. Así que cada persona es libre de seguir las convicciones de su conciencia.

6-9 Lo importante en todo esto es que, si guardas un día santo, lo guardes por amor a Dios; si comes carne, la comas para la gloria de Dios y le des gracias a Dios por el bistec; si eres vegetariano, comas verduras para la gloria de Dios y le des gracias a Dios por el brócoli. A ninguno de nosotros se nos permite insistir en que se haga nuestra voluntad en estos asuntos. A quien tenemos que rendir cuentas es a Dios —desde la vida hasta la muerte y todo lo que hay en medio—, no a los demás. Por eso Jesús vivió, murió y luego volvió a vivir: para ser nuestro Señor en todo el ámbito de la vida y de la muerte, y para liberarnos de las pequeñas tiranías que ejercemos unos sobre otros.

10-12 Entonces, ¿en qué lugar te deja eso cuando criticas a un hermano? ¿Y en qué lugar te deja cuando tratas con superioridad a una hermana? Yo diría que te deja en una

posición bastante ridícula, o peor. Al final, todos vamos a terminar de rodillas, lado a lado, en el lugar del juicio, delante de Dios. Tus actitudes críticas y condescendientes no van a mejorar en nada tu posición allí. Léelo por tu cuenta en la Escritura:

“Tan cierto como que vivo,” dice Dios,
“toda rodilla se doblará ante mí;
Toda lengua dirá la verdad sincera:
que yo, y solo yo, soy Dios.”

Así que ocúpate de tus propios asuntos. Ya tienes bastante con encargarte de tu propia vida delante de Dios.

¡Ni se te ocurra permitir que un alimento bendecido por Dios se convierta en ocasión para envenenar el alma!

17-18 El reino de Dios no se trata de lo que te metes en el estómago, por favor. Se trata de lo que Dios hace con tu vida cuando la endereza, la une y la completa con gozo. Tu tarea es servir a Cristo con una sola intención. Haz eso y agradarás al Dios que está sobre ti, y demostrarás tu valor ante las personas que te rodean.

19 Pongámonos de acuerdo en usar toda nuestra energía para llevarnos bien unos con otros, hacer la paz y edificarnos mutuamente.

7 Acérquense y recíbanse unos a otros para la gloria de Dios. Jesús lo hizo; ¡ahora háganlo ustedes!

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #398 “Shadow and Substance”

1 Shadow and substance,
wonder and mystery,
spellbinding spinner of atoms and earth;
soul of the cosmos,
person and energy,
source of our being, we sing of your worth.

2 We are your image,
formed in community;
sisters and brothers of Adam and Eve.
You gave us color,
custom and history;
teach us to honor what others receive.

3 Naming the nameless
Spirit of unity,

scanning the heavens for signs of your care;
God of the ages,
give us humility;
guide us to mystical union in prayer.

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.....

“Reviewing the Situation from the Columbia Pictures-Romulus Film Oliver," Words and Music by Lionel Bart. David McElhaney, Tenor and Dorenda Morse, 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 #“They will know we are Christians by our love”

1 We are one in the Spirit,
We are one in the Lord,

We are one in the Spirit,
We are one in the Lord,
And we'll pray that all unity
Will one day be restored:

Refrain:
And they'll know we are Christians
By our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians
By our love

2 We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news
That God is in our land:
(Refrain)

3 We will work with each other,
We will work side by side,
We will work with each other,
We will work side by side,
And we'll guard each one's dignity
And save each one's pride:
(Refrain)

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

Joyful Noise Bell Choir

BENEDICTION.....

Prayer Request: Please pray for Noel, for healing. Requested by Elise



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

7834 Tennyson Street NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122

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www.ucccogs.org

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