



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

09/27/26

11:00am



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

September 27, 2026

WELCOME.....

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This week has been filled with celebrations and sorrows.

Many: We come here today with joys and burdens.

One: God, who hears your cries, will offer you healing love.

Many: Thanks be to God for God's generosity and compassion.

One: Open your hearts to God's infinite mercy.

Many: We open our hearts to receive God's love.

One: Come, let us celebrate God in community.

HYMN #444 We Are Often Tossed and Driven

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]

OPENING REFLECTION.....

Carol Red, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....

Exodus 17:1-13, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

17 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as God commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test your God?” 3 But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” 4 So Moses cried out to God, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” 5 God said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. 6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 He called the place Massah, which means testing, and Meribah, which means quarreling, because the Israelites quarreled and tested God, saying, “Is God among us or not?”

8 Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. 9 Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some men for us and go out; fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” 10 So Joshua did as Moses told him and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. 11 Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. 12 But Moses’s hands grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on either side, so his hands were steady until the sun set. 13 And Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the sword.

Éxodo 17:1-13, Nueva Versión Internacional

17 Toda la comunidad israelita partió del desierto de Sin por etapas, según lo había ordenado el Señor. Acamparon en Refidín, pero no había allí agua para que bebieran, 2 así que discutieron con Moisés.

—Danos agua para beber —le exigieron.

—¿Por qué discuten conmigo? —se defendió Moisés—. ¿Por qué provocan al Señor?

3 Pero los israelitas estaban sedientos, y murmuraron contra Moisés.

—¿Para qué nos sacaste de Egipto? —reclamaban—. ¿Solo para matarnos de sed a nosotros, a nuestros hijos y a nuestro ganado?

4 Clamó entonces Moisés al Señor y dijo:

—¿Qué voy a hacer con este pueblo? ¡Solo falta que me maten a pedradas!

5 —Adelántate al pueblo —le aconsejó el Señor— y llévate contigo a algunos jefes de Israel, pero lleva también la vara con que golpeaste el Nilo. Ponte en marcha, 6 que yo estaré esperándote junto a la roca que está en Horeb. Dale un golpe a la roca, y de ella brotará agua para que beba el pueblo.

Así lo hizo Moisés, a la vista de los jefes de Israel. 7 Además, a ese lugar lo llamó Masá, y también Meribá, porque los israelitas habían probado al Señor y altercado con él, al decir: «¿Está o no está el Señor entre nosotros?».

8 Los amalecitas vinieron a Refidín y atacaron a los israelitas. 9 Entonces Moisés ordenó a Josué: «Escoge algunos de nuestros hombres y sal a combatir a los amalecitas. Mañana yo estaré en la cima de la colina con la vara de Dios en la mano».

10 Josué siguió las órdenes de Moisés y presentó batalla a los amalecitas. Por su parte, Moisés, Aarón y Hur subieron a la cima de la colina. 11 Mientras Moisés mantenía los brazos en alto, la batalla se inclinaba en favor de los israelitas; pero cuando los bajaba, se inclinaba en favor de los amalecitas. 12 Cuando a Moisés se le cansaron los brazos, tomaron una piedra y se la pusieron debajo para que se sentara en ella. Luego Aarón y Hur sostuvieron sus brazos, uno el izquierdo y otro el derecho, y así Moisés pudo mantenerlos firmes hasta la puesta del sol. 13 Fue así como Josué derrotó al ejército amalecita a filo de espada.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #366 God of Our Life

1 God of our life, through all the circling years,
we trust in you.

In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,
your care shines through.

With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
We own your mercies, God, which never fail.

2 God of the past, our times are in your hand;
with us abide.
Lead us by faith to hope’s true promised land;
be now our guide.
Bless us in times of darkness and of light,
Then faith’s fair vision changes into sight.

3 God of the coming years, through paths unknown
we follow you;
When we are strong, O leave us not alone,
our refuge be.
Be now for us in life our daily bread,
Our heart’s true home when all our years have sped.

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.....

“Come, Christians Join to Sing” Arr. Anna Laura Page Joyful Noise Bell Choir

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 #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.

3 Through tears and laughter, grief and joy,
enlarge our trust and care;
so bind us in community
that we may risk and dare.
Be with us when we gather here
to worship, sing, and pray,
then send us forth in power and faith
to live the words we say.

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

"Carol Red, piano

BENEDICTION.....

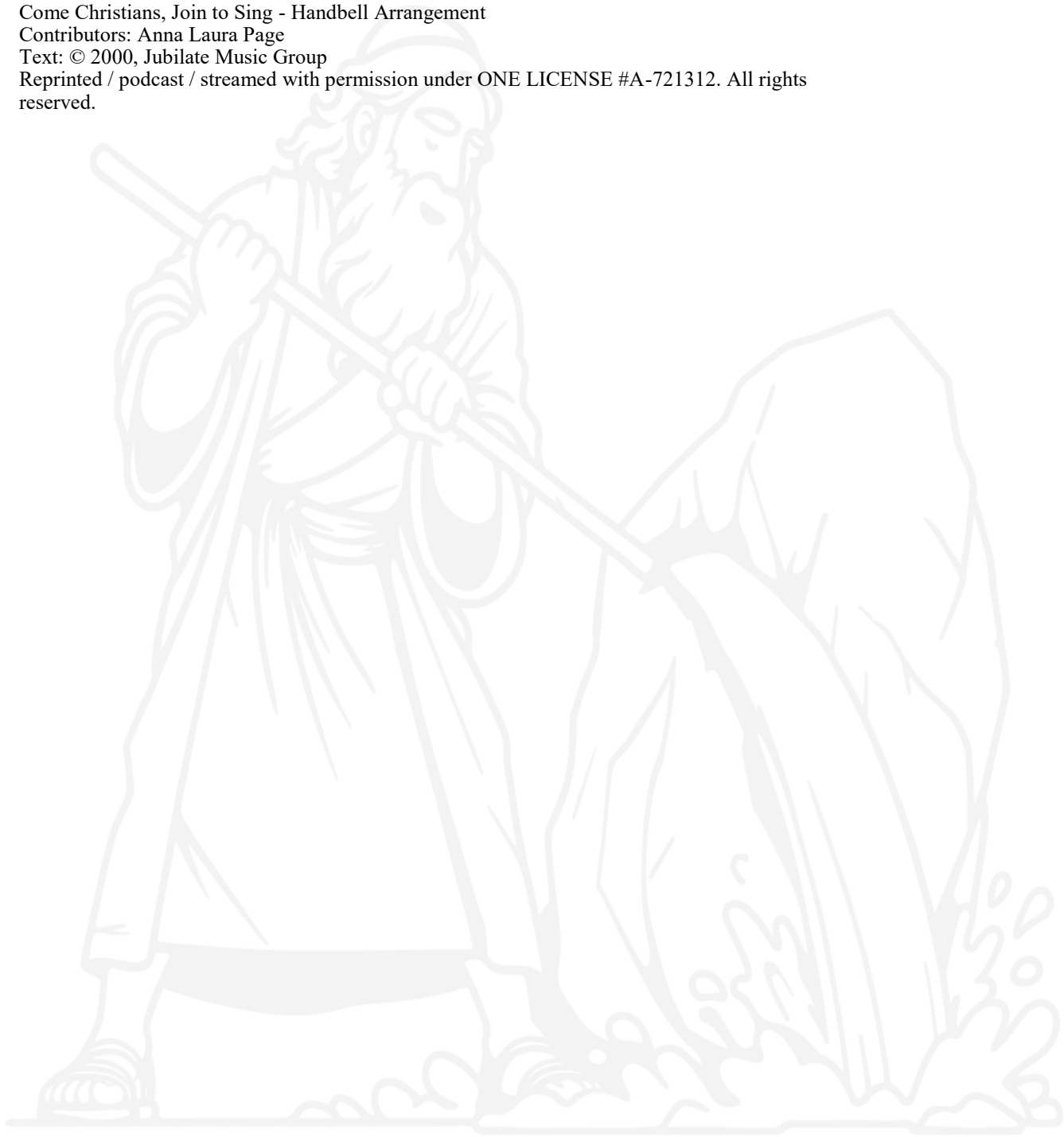
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Come Christians, Join to Sing - Handbell Arrangement

Contributors: Anna Laura Page

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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.