

10/04/26

11:00am



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

October 04, 2026

WELCOME.....

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Welcome, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey.

Many: We come to hear the great lessons of faith, offered to us through the centuries.

One: We will not hide the struggles from you, but we will invite you to place yourselves on the pathways of hope.

Many: Though our individual lives may differ, we all come seeking God's loving guidance and peace.

One: Welcome to this house of God, a place of continuing hope and courage.

Many: Let us celebrate the God who brings us together and sets us free.

This call to worship was adapted from the writings of the Rev. Nancy C. Townley.

HYMN #561 "When In Our Music God is Glorified"

1 When in our music God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried:
Alleluia!

2 How often, making music, we have found
a new dimension in the world of sound,
As worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia!

3 So has the church, in liturgy and song,
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
Borne witness to the truth in every tongue:
Alleluia!

4 Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always:

Alleluia!

OPENING REFLECTION.....

“How Can I Keep From Singing” Quaker tune arr. Jay Althouse. Chancel Choir

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....

Matthew 21:33-46, adapted from The Message

33-34 “Here’s another story. Listen closely. There was once a man, a wealthy farmer, who planted a vineyard. He trenched it and fenced it, dug a winepress, put up a watch-tower, then turned it over to the farmhands and went off on a trip. When it was time to harvest the grapes, he sent his servants back to collect his portion of the harvest.

35-37 “The farmhands grabbed the first servant and beat him up. The next one they murdered. They stoned the third. The owner tried again, sending more servants. They got the same treatment. The owner was at the end of his rope. He decided to send his son. ‘Surely,’ he thought, ‘they will respect my son.’

38-39 “But when the farmhands saw the son arrive, they rubbed their hands in greed. ‘This is the heir! Let’s kill him and have it all for ourselves.’ They grabbed him, threw him out, and killed him.

40 “Now, when the owner of the vineyard arrives home from his trip, what do you think he will do to the farmhands?”

41 “He’ll kill them—a rotten bunch, and good riddance,” they answered. “Then he’ll assign the vineyard to farmhands who will hand over his portion of the harvest when it’s time.”

42-44 Jesus said, “Right—and you can read it for yourselves in your Bibles:

The stone the masons threw out
is now the cornerstone.
This is God’s work;
we rub our eyes, we can hardly believe it!

“This is the way it is with you. God’s kingdom will be taken back from you and handed over to a people who will live out a kingdom life. Whoever stumbles on this stone gets shattered; whoever the stone falls on gets smashed.”

45-46 When the religious leaders heard this story, they knew it was aimed at them. They wanted to arrest Jesus and put him in jail, but, intimidated by public opinion, they held

back, because most people held him to be a prophet of God.

Mateo 21:33-46, Reina-Valera 1960

33 Oíd otra parábola: Hubo un hombre, padre de familia, el cual plantó una viña, la cercó de vallado, cavó en ella un lagar, edificó una torre, y la arrendó a unos labradores, y se fue lejos. 34 Y cuando se acercó el tiempo de los frutos, envió sus siervos a los labradores, para que recibiesen sus frutos. 35 Mas los labradores, tomando a los siervos, a uno golpearon, a otro mataron, y a otro apedrearon. 36 Envío de nuevo otros siervos, más que los primeros; e hicieron con ellos de la misma manera.

37 Finalmente les envió su hijo, diciendo: Tendrán respeto a mi hijo. 38 Mas los labradores, cuando vieron al hijo, dijeron entre sí: Este es el heredero; venid, matémosle, y apoderémonos de su heredad. 39 Y tomándole, le echaron fuera de la viña, y le mataron. 40 Cuando venga, pues, el señor de la viña, ¿qué hará a aquellos labradores? 41 Le dijeron: A los malos destruirá sin misericordia, y arrendará su viña a otros labradores, que le paguen el fruto a su tiempo.

42 Jesús les dijo: ¿Nunca leísteis en las Escrituras:

La piedra que desecharon los edificadores,

Ha venido a ser cabeza del ángulo.

El Señor ha hecho esto,

Y es cosa maravillosa a nuestros ojos?

43 Por tanto os digo, que el reino de Dios será quitado de vosotros, y será dado a gente que produzca los frutos de él. 44 Y el que cayere sobre esta piedra será quebrantado; y sobre quien ella cayere, le desmenuzará.

45 Y oyendo sus parábolas los principales sacerdotes y los fariseos, entendieron que hablaba de ellos. 46 Pero al buscar cómo echarle mano, temían al pueblo, porque este le tenía por profeta.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #“God, When You Called Our Church By Grace”

(To the tune of “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

1 God, when you called our church by grace,

This land was such a different place.

Yet what you spoke remains the same:

“I’ll be with you! Go in my name!”

Refrain: Your promise is for everyone:

You call us here; your word is true!

We’ll be a faithful church for you!

2 Lord Jesus Christ, our cornerstone,

You meet us here; we’re not alone!

Through times of joy, through tears long-wept,

You are God’s love, God’s promise kept.

Refrain: Your promise is for everyone:

You love us all, you make us new!

We’ll be a loving church for you!

3 O Holy Spirit, wind and flame,

You send us out in Jesus’ name.

You give us gifts that we may share

God’s love and justice everywhere.

Refrain: Your promise is for everyone:

You give us gifts, and work to do!

We’ll be a serving church for you!

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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.....
“Carol Red, 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.....

COMMUNION HYMN #349 “I Come With Joy, a Child of God” 1,2,3,5

1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
The life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love

in Christ's communion bread,

in Christ's communion bread.

3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.

The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

5 Together met, together bound
in friendship we will stay,
And go with joy to love the world
and live the way we pray,
and live the way we pray.

COMMUNION.....

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

“Carol Red, piano

BENEDICTION.....

Prayer Request

Please pray for David for support. Requested by Penny.

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How Can I Keep From Singing Type: Words and Music; First Line: My life flows on in endless song

Contributors: Jay Althouse © 2014 by Alfred Music Inc.

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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

7834 Tennyson Street NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122

Office: 505-856-1004

www.ucccogs.org

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