



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

10/18/26

11:00am



No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.
October 18, 2026

WELCOME.....

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God's love is poured out into our lives, giving us hope, strength, and courage.

Many: We give thanks for God's presence and care.

One: We are called not only to receive God's love, but to share it, becoming examples of faith, compassion, and justice.

Many: May our lives reflect God's love into the world!

One: As we gather in worship, may we find renewed strength to love our neighbors as God loves us.

Many: With thanksgiving and hope, let us join our voices in proclaiming the Good News!

HYMN #531 God, Speak to Me

1 God, speak to me, that I may speak

in living echoes of your tone;

as you have sought, so let me seek

your erring children lost and lone.

2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead

some wanderers along life's way;

O feed me so that I may feed

your hungering ones without delay.

3 O fill me with your fullness, God,

your overflowing love to know;

In glowing word and kindling thought,

your love to tell, your praise to show.

4 O use me, God, use even me

just as you will, and when, and where,

until your blessed face I see,

your rest, your joy, your glory share.

OPENING REFLECTION.....
“Followers of the Lamb” - Shaker song arr. Earlene Rentz. Chancel Choir

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, adapted from the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition

- 1:1** Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God and Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.
- 1:2** We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly
- 1:3** remembering before our God and Creator your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in Jesus Christ.
- 1:4** For we know, brothers and sisters and siblings beloved by God, that God has chosen you,
- 1:5** because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.
- 1:6** And you became imitators of us and of Jesus, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired from the Holy Spirit,
- 1:7** so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.
- 1:8** For the word of Jesus has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it.
- 1:9** For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God,
- 1:10** and to wait for God's Son from heaven, whom God raised from the dead--Jesus, who rescues us from all the hardship that is to come.

Matthew 22:15-22, adapted from the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition

- 22:15** Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said.
- 22:16** So they sent their disciples to him, along with people who were loyal to Herod, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality.
- 22:17** Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the Caesar, or not?"

22:18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?"

22:19 Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius.

22:20 Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?"

22:21 They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are the Caesar's and to God the things that are God's."

22:22 When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

1 Tesalonicenses 1 La Biblia de las Américas

1 Pablo , Silvano y Timoteo, a la iglesia de los tesalonicenses en Dios Padre y en el Señor Jesucristo: Gracia a vosotros y paz.

2 Siempre damos gracias a Dios por todos vosotros, haciendo mención de vosotros en nuestras oraciones;3 teniendo presente sin cesar delante de nuestro Dios y Padre vuestra obra de fe, vuestro trabajo de amor y la firmeza de vuestra esperanza en nuestro Señor Jesucristo; 4 sabiendo, hermanos amados de Dios, su elección de vosotros, 5 pues nuestro evangelio no vino a vosotros solamente en palabras, sino también en poder y en el Espíritu Santo y con plena convicción; como sabéis qué clase de personas demostramos ser entre vosotros por amor a vosotros. 6 Y vosotros vinisteis a ser imitadores de nosotros y del Señor, habiendo recibido la palabra, en medio de mucha tribulación, con el gozo del Espíritu Santo, 7 de manera que llegasteis a ser un ejemplo para todos los creyentes en Macedonia y en Acaya.8 Porque saliendo de vosotros, la palabra del Señor ha resonado, no solo en Macedonia y Acaya, sino que también por todas partes vuestra fe en Dios se ha divulgado, de modo que nosotros no tenemos necesidad de hablar nada. 9 Pues ellos mismos cuentan acerca de nosotros, de la acogida que tuvimos por parte de vosotros, y de cómo os convertisteis de los ídolos a Dios para servir al Dios vivo y verdadero, 10 y esperar de los cielos a su Hijo, al cual resucitó de entre los muertos, es decir, a Jesús, quien nos libra de la ira venidera.

Mateo 22:15-22 La Biblia de las Américas

15 Entonces se fueron los fariseos y deliberaron entre sí cómo atraparle, sorprendiéndole en alguna palabra. 16 Y le enviaron* sus discípulos junto con los herodianos, diciendo: Maestro, sabemos que eres veraz y que enseñas el camino de Dios con verdad, y no buscas el favor de nadie, porque eres imparcial. 17 Dinos, pues, qué te parece: ¿Es lícito pagar impuesto al César, o no? 18 Pero Jesús, conociendo su malicia, dijo: ¿Por qué me ponéis a prueba, hipócritas? 19 Mostradme la moneda que se usa para pagar ese impuesto. Y le trajeron un denario. 20 Y Él les dijo*: ¿De quién es esta imagen y esta inscripción? 21 Ellos le dijeron*: Del César. Entonces Él les dijo*: Pues dad al César lo que es del César, y a Dios lo que es de Dios. 22 Al oír esto, se maravillaron; y dejándole, se fueron.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #495 Called As Partners in Christ's Service 1,2,3

1 Called as partners in Christ's service,
called to ministries of grace,

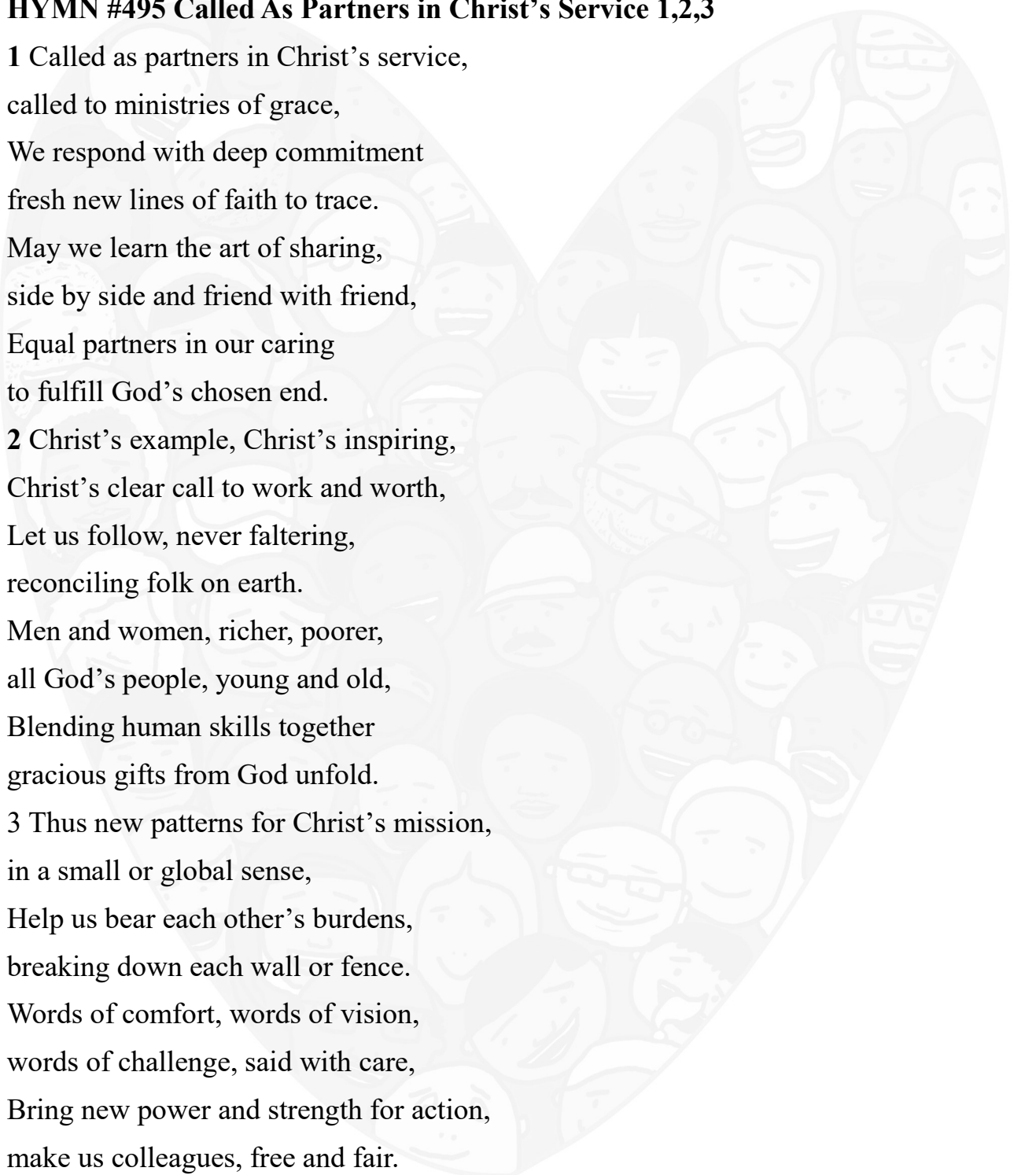
We respond with deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.

May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring
to fulfill God's chosen end.

2 Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering,
reconciling folk on earth.

Men and women, richer, poorer,
all God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together
gracious gifts from God unfold.

3 Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
in a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens,
breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action,
make us colleagues, free and fair.



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.....

“Spirit, Come, Dispel Our Sadness,” by Joshua Leavitt, Tune: PLEADING SAVIOR, arr. By Anna Laura Page Copyright 2020 Choristers Guild. 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 #528 Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)

1 You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;
You're a star that will shine through the day;
You are the yeast and a small grain of salt,
a beacon to glow in the night.

Refrain: Go, my friends, go to the world,
Proclaiming love to all,
Messengers of my forgiving peace,
eternal love.

2 You are the dawn that will bring a new day;
You're the wheat that will bear golden grain;
You are a sting and a soft, gentle touch,
My witnesses where-e'er you go.

Refrain: Be, my friends, a loyal witness,
From the dead I arose;
“Lo, I'll be with you forever,
Till the end of the world.”

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,” based on EIN FESTE BURG by Martin Luther, arr. By Lloyd Larson . Dorenda Morse, piano

BENEDICTION.....

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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 inclusive community that shares Divine love as a path to peace and justice in the world.

Mission Statement

The mission of Church of the Good Shepherd is to build a just world through community one life at a time.

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

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