



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

10/25/26

11:00am



“You see, if you sow hate you reap a whole lot of hate, but when you sow love you reap a whole lot of love.”

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

October 25, 2026

Worship Leader: **Joanna Fair**

WELCOME.....

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come from different stories, struggles, and quiet hopes.

Many: We gather here not because we have it all figured out, but because Love has welcomed us home.

One: Jesus reminds us of the ancient heartbeat of our faith:

Many: Love God with all your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself.

One: We love our neighbors by working for their safety, their dignity, and their liberation.

Many: We love ourselves by offering grace to our own tired spirits, so that we might be instruments of healing in a broken world.

One: Come, let us worship the God of boundless compassion. Let our praise spill out of these walls and into the world, where love is not a theory, but a practice.

Many: Let us celebrate God together in spirit, in truth, and in action.

HYMN #4 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You” 1,3, 4

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the storms of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

3 You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother,
all who love belong to you;
Teach us how to love each other,
by that love our joy renew.

4 Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
Boundless love is reigning o'er us,
reconciling race and clan.
Ever singing, move we forward,
faithful in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us onward
in the triumph song of life.

OPENING REFLECTION.....

"God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" arr. Cathy Moglebust Joyful Noise Bell Choir

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18, 33-34, New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition

19:1 God spoke to Moses, saying:

2 "Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I am your God, and I am holy.

9 "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest.

10 You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am your God.

11 "You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another.

12 And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am your Sovereign.

13 "You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning.

14 You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am your Sovereign.

15 "You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor.

16 You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am your Sovereign.

17 “You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself.

18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am your Sovereign.

33 “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien.

34 The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am your Sovereign, your God.

Matthew 22:34-46, adapted from the New Revised Standard Version

34 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, 35 and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. 36 “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” 37 He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Sovereign God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” 41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 42 “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” 43 He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 44 ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet” ’? 45 “If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” 46 No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Levítico 19:1-2, 9-18, 33-34, Reina-Valera 1960

19:1 Habló Jehová a Moisés, diciendo:

2 Habla a toda la congregación de los hijos de Israel, y diles: Santos seréis, porque santo soy yo Jehová vuestro Dios.

9 Cuando siegues la mies de tu tierra, no segarás hasta el último rincón de ella, ni espigarás tu tierra segada. 10 Y no rebuscarás tu viña, ni recogerás el fruto caído de tu viña; para el pobre y para el extranjero lo dejarás. Yo Jehová vuestro Dios.

11 No hurtaréis, y no engañaréis ni mentiréis el uno al otro. 12 Y no juraréis falsamente por mi nombre, profanando así el nombre de tu Dios. Yo Jehová.

13 No oprimirás a tu prójimo, ni le robarás. No retendrás el salario del jornalero en tu

casa hasta la mañana. 14 No maldecirás al sordo, y delante del ciego no pondrás tropiezo, sino que tendrás temor de tu Dios. Yo Jehová.

15 No harás injusticia en el juicio, ni favoreciendo al pobre ni complaciendo al grande; con justicia juzgarás a tu prójimo. 16 No andarás chismeando entre tu pueblo. No atentarás contra la vida de tu prójimo. Yo Jehová.

17 No aborrecerás a tu hermano en tu corazón; razonarás con tu prójimo, para que no participes de su pecado. 18 No te vengarás, ni guardarás rencor a los hijos de tu pueblo, sino amarás a tu prójimo como a ti mismo. Yo Jehová.

33 Cuando el extranjero morare con vosotros en vuestra tierra, no le oprimiréis. 34 Como a un natural de vosotros tendréis al extranjero que more entre vosotros, y lo amarás como a ti mismo; porque extranjeros fuisteis en la tierra de Egipto. Yo Jehová vuestro Dios.

Mateo 22:34-46, Reina-Valera 1960

34 Entonces los fariseos, oyendo que había hecho callar a los saduceos, se juntaron a una. 35 Y uno de ellos, intérprete de la ley, preguntó por tentarle, diciendo: 36 Maestro, ¿cuál es el gran mandamiento en la ley? 37 Jesús le dijo: Amarás al Señor tu Dios con todo tu corazón, y con toda tu alma, y con toda tu mente. 38 Este es el primero y grande mandamiento. 39 Y el segundo es semejante: Amarás a tu prójimo como a ti mismo. 40 De estos dos mandamientos depende toda la ley y los profetas. 41 Y estando juntos los fariseos, Jesús les preguntó, 42 diciendo: ¿Qué pensáis del Cristo? ¿De quién es hijo? Le dijeron: De David. 43 Él les dijo: ¿Pues cómo David en el Espíritu le llama Señor, diciendo: 44 Dijo el Señor a mi Señor: Siéntate a mi derecha, Hasta que ponga a tus enemigos por estrado de tus pies? 45 Pues si David le llama Señor, ¿cómo es su hijo? 46 Y nadie le podía responder palabra; ni osó alguno desde aquel día preguntarle más.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #32 God of the Sparrow 1,2,5,6

1 God of the sparrow God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

2 God of the earthquake God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature say Woe
How does the creature cry Save

5 God of the neighbor God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home.

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.....

“Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated,” arr. by Cindy Berry. 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 #294 “There’s a Spirit in the Air” 1,2,4,5,6

1 There’s a spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere:
“Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world.”

2 Lose your shyness, find your tongue;
tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow’s life today.

4 Still the Spirit gives us light,
seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow’s life today!

5 When a stranger’s not alone,
where the homeless find a home;
Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.

6 May the Spirit fill our praise,
guide our thoughts and change our ways.
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow’s life today.

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

“Wonderful Words of Life” by Philip P. Bliss, arr. Cindy Berry. 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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