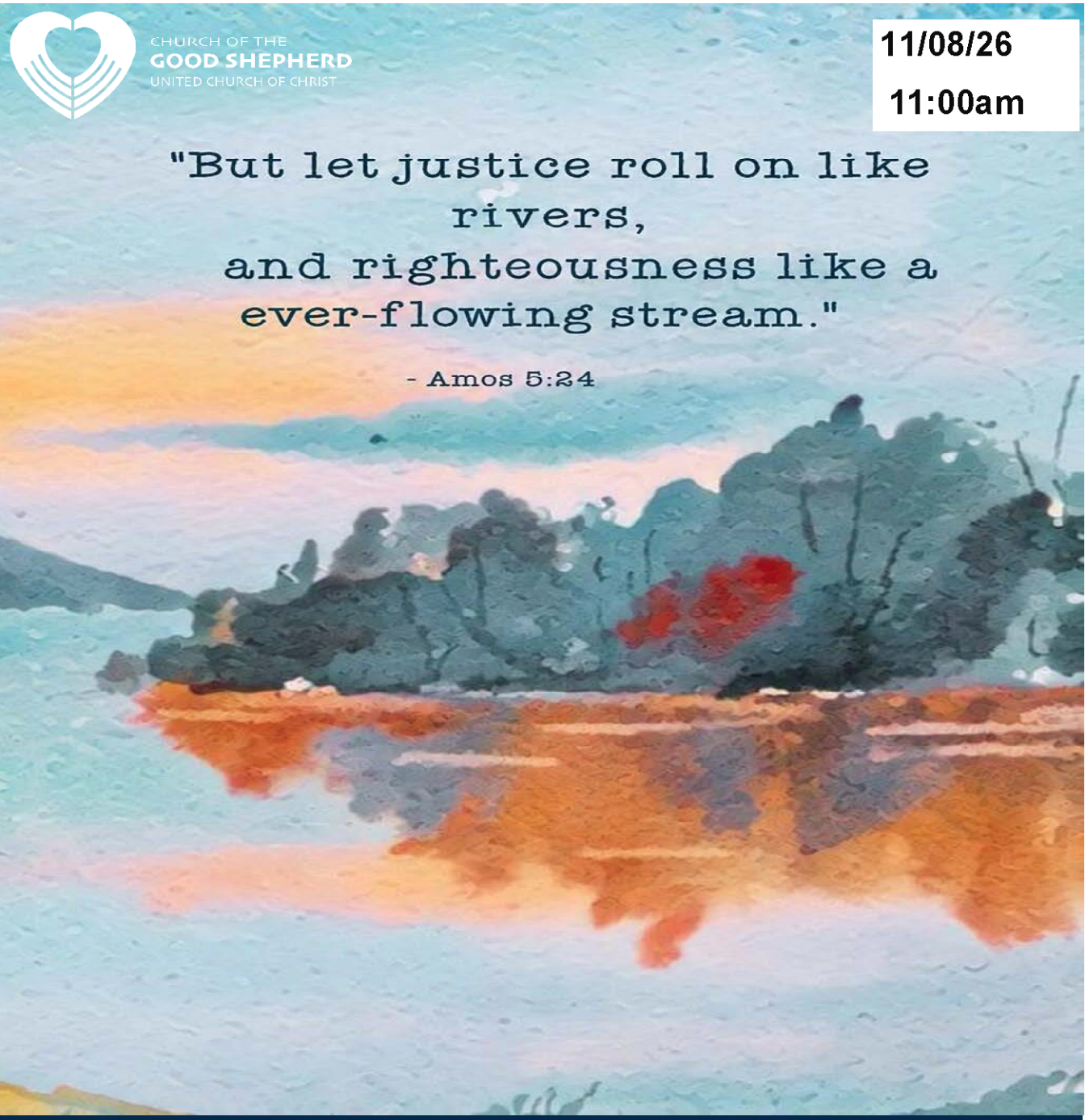
CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

11/08/26
11:00am



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

November 08, 2026

Worship Leader: **Axel Catterall**

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Welcome, People of God!
Many: We gather in our wisdom and our foolishness.
One: Though some of us are more prepared than others,
Many: We are all here.
One: With bright lights and dim,
Many: We wait together for the expected One.
One: Look! Come out! Keep awake!
Many: For God is here. Let us celebrate God together!

HYMN #42 "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories ever echoing
the triumphs of God's grace!

2 My gracious Savior and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.

3 Jesus! the name that calms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease
Is music in the sinner's ears,
is life, and health, and peace!

4 Glory to God, and love and praise
be ever, ever given
By all the saints in every age,
the church in earth and heaven.

OPENING REFLECTION

"Softly and Tenderly," by Will L. Thompson, Tune: THOMPSON, arr. By Todd Kendall Dorenda Morse, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....

Amos 5:18-24, adapted from the NRSVUE

5:18 Woe to you who desire the Day of Judgment! Why do you want the day of Yahweh? It is darkness, not light,

5:19 as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake.

5:20 Is not the day of Yahweh darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

5:21I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

5:22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon.

5:23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

5:24 But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

Matthew 25:1-13, adapted from the NRSVUE

25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women attendants took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.

25:2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

25:3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,

25:4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

25:5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.

25:6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

25:7 Then all those young women who were attendants got up and trimmed their lamps.

25:8 The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

25:9 But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’

25:10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut.

25:11 Later the other young women came also, saying, ‘Sir, Sir, open to us.’

25:12 But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’

25:13 Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Amós 5:18-24 Reina-Valera 1960

18 ¡Ay de los que desean el día de Jehová! ¿Para qué queréis este día de Jehová? Será de tinieblas, y no de luz;**19** como el que huye de delante del león, y se encuentra con el oso; o como si entrare en casa y apoyare su mano en la pared, y le muerde una culebra. **20** ¿No será el día de Jehová tinieblas, y no luz; oscuridad, que no tiene resplandor?

21 Aborrecí, abominé vuestras solemnidades, y no me complaceré en vuestras asambleas. **22** Y si me ofreciereis vuestros holocaustos y vuestras ofrendas, no los recibiré, ni miraré a las ofrendas de paz de vuestros animales engordados. **23** Quita de mí la multitud de tus cantares, pues no escucharé las salmodias de tus instrumentos. **24** Pero corra el juicio como las aguas, y la justicia como impetuoso

Mateo 25:1-13 Reina-Valera 1960

Parábola de las diez vírgenes

25 Entonces el reino de los cielos será semejante a diez vírgenes que tomando sus lámparas, salieron a recibir al esposo. 2 Cinco de ellas eran prudentes

y cinco insensatas. 3 Las insensatas, tomando sus lámparas, no tomaron consigo aceite; 4 mas las prudentes tomaron aceite en sus vasijas, juntamente con sus lámparas. 5 Y tardándose el esposo, cabecearon todas y se durmieron. 6 Y a la medianoche se oyó un clamor: ¡Aquí viene el esposo; salid a recibirle!7 Entonces todas aquellas vírgenes se levantaron, y arreglaron sus lámparas.8 Y las insensatas dijeron a las prudentes: Dadnos de vuestro aceite; porque nuestras lámparas se apagan.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

HYMN #473 "Blessed Assurance" 1,3

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

Refrain:
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love. **[Refrain]**

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

"Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone" - by Chris Tomlin. Axel Catterall, solo

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 #588 "Let Justice Flow like Streams

1 Let justice flow like streams
of sparkling water, pure,
Enabling growth, refreshing life,
abundant, cleansing, sure.

2 Let righteousness roll on
as others, cares we heed,
An ever-flowing stream of faith
translated into deed.

3 So may God's plumb line, straight,
define our measure true,
and justice, right, and peace
pervade this world our whole life through.

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

“Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It,” by William J. Kirkpatrick, Tune: REDEEMED, arr. By Mary McDonald
Dorenda Morse, piano

BENEDICTION.....

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Welcome!

Thank you for joining us in worship today

We are delighted to have you worshiping 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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