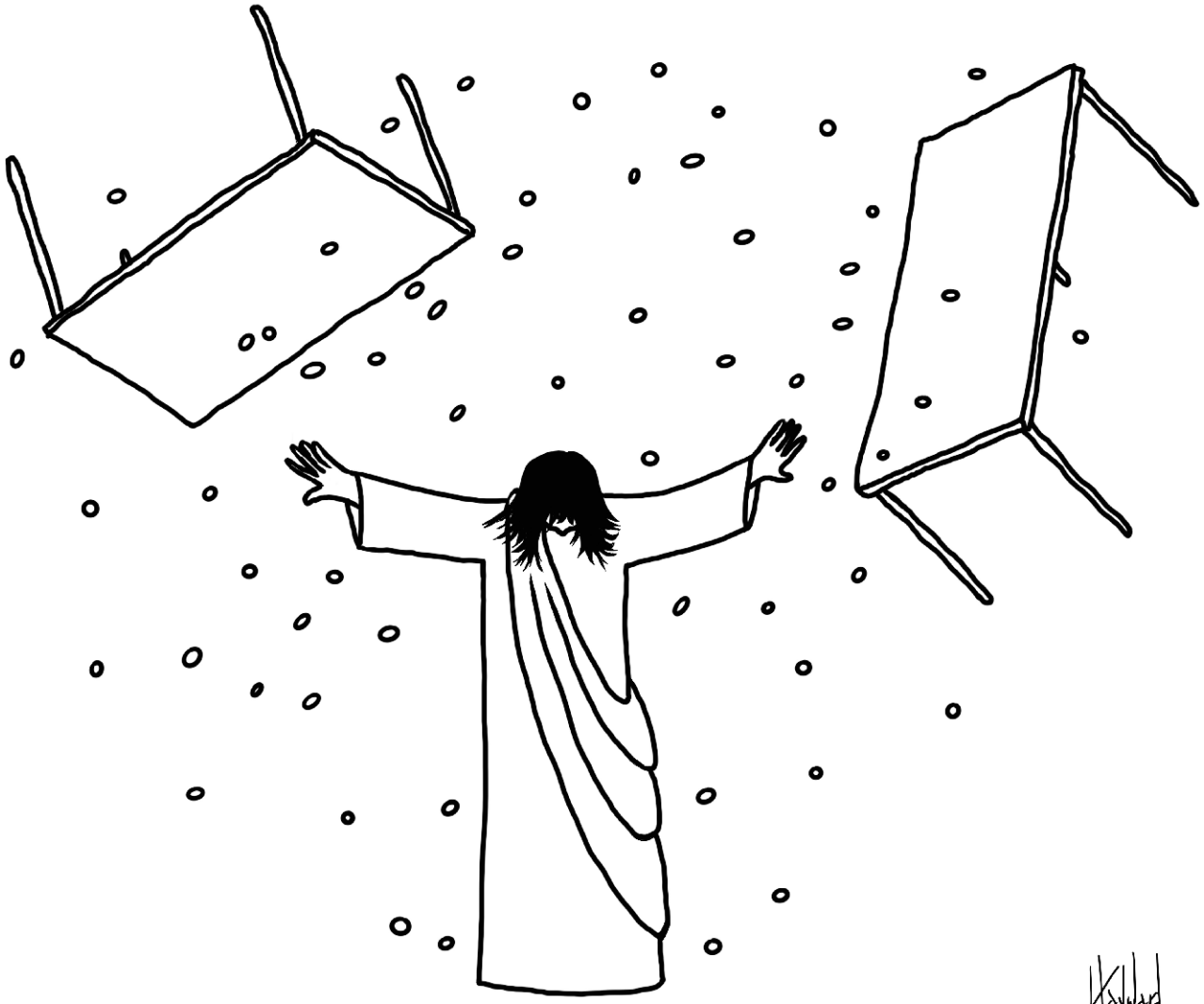
CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

11/15/26

11:00am



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

NOVEMBER 15, 2026

Worship Leader: **Axel Catterall**

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, worship God, who gives generously to us.

Many: God has entrusted us with gifts to share and love to put into action.

One: It can seem like the world rewards those who protect their own interests, but God invites us to invest in the flourishing of all.

Many: May we be generous with what we have, courageous in what we challenge, and faithful in our care for one another.

One: Come, let us worship God, whose abundance is for everyone!

HYMN #164 Arise, Your Light Is Come 1-4

1 Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God
Which shines on you today!

2 Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door,
Proclaim the captive's liberty,
Good tidings to the poor.

3 Arise, you light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken-heart-ed ones
And comfort those who mourn.

4 Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

OPENING REFLECTION

"Fear Not" words and music by Karen Marrolli
Chancel Choir; Liana Austin, violin; Dorenda Morse, piano

Fear not, for I am always with you.
Come, my child and dry your tears.
Though pain and trials the world my give you,
Hope will bear you through all your years.

When fears for tomorrow capture the moonlight,
Look to the edge of the night.
The answer comes at the end of yearning
As the new dawn takes its flight.

Fear not, for I will always guide you.
Come, my child and take my hand.
For faith and love will walk beside you,
Even when you can barely stand.

When grieving and sorrow capture the sunlight,
Look to the edge of the storm.
The answer comes in the vibrant rainbow
Reaching through a sky reborn.

Fear not, my child, fear not my child.
When fears for tomorrow capture the moonlight,
Look to the edge of the night.
The answer comes in the breath of silence.
Hope waits with you, sculpting morning.
Hope waits with you:
Artist painting the dawning light!

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....

Matthew 25:14-30, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

14 "For the kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. [A talent was equivalent to about 20 years' wages]. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 26 But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Mateo 25:14-30, Nueva Versión Internacional

14 »El reino de los cielos será también como un hombre que, al emprender un viaje, llamó a sus siervos y les encargó sus bienes. 15 A uno le dio cinco mil monedas;[a] a otro, dos mil y a otro, mil. Dio a cada uno según su capacidad. Luego se fue de viaje. 16 El que había recibido las cinco mil fue enseguida y negoció con ellas y ganó otras cinco mil. 17 Así mismo, el que recibió dos mil ganó otras dos mil.18 Pero el que había recibido mil fue, cavó un hoyo en la tierra y escondió el dinero de su señor.

19 »Después de mucho tiempo, volvió el señor de aquellos siervos y arregló cuentas con ellos. 20 El que había recibido las cinco mil monedas llegó con las otras cinco mil. “Señor —dijo—, usted me encargó cinco mil monedas. Mire, he ganado otras cinco mil”. 21 Su señor respondió: “¡Hiciste bien, siervo bueno y fiel! En lo poco has sido fiel; te pondré a cargo de mucho más. ¡Ven a compartir la felicidad de tu señor!”. 22 Llegó también el que recibió dos mil monedas. “Señor —informó—, usted me encargó dos mil monedas. Mire, he ganado otras dos mil”. 23 Su señor respondió: “¡Hiciste bien, siervo bueno y fiel! En lo poco has sido fiel; te pondré a cargo de mucho más. ¡Ven a compartir la felicidad de tu señor!”.

24 »Después llegó el que había recibido mil monedas. “Señor —explicó—, yo sabía que usted es un hombre duro, que cosecha donde no ha sembrado y recoge donde no ha esparcido. 25 Así que tuve miedo y fui y escondí su dinero en la tierra. Mire, aquí tiene lo que es suyo”. 26 Pero su señor respondió: “¡Siervo malo y perezoso! ¿Así que sabías que cosecho donde no he sembrado y recojo donde no he esparcido? 27 Pues debías haber depositado mi dinero en el banco, para que a mi regreso lo hubiera recibido con intereses”.

28 »Después ordenó: “Quítenle las mil monedas y dénselas al que tiene las diez mil. 29 Porque a todo el que tiene se le dará más y tendrá en abundancia. Al que no tiene hasta lo que tiene se le quitará. 30 Y a ese siervo inútil échenlo afuera, a la oscuridad, donde habrá llanto y crujir de dientes”.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

HYMN #563 We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

1 We cannot own the sunlit sky,
The moon, the wild-flowers growing,
For we are part of all that is
Within life's river flowing,
With open hands receive and share
The gifts of God's creation,
That all may have a abundant life
In every earthly nation.

2 When bodies shiver in the night
And, weary, wait for morning,
When children have no bread but tears,
And war-horns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake,
To join in common labor,
That all may have abundant life
In oneness with their neighbor.

3 God call humanity to join,
As partners in creating
A future free from want or fear,
Life's goodness celebrating
That new world beckons from afar,
Invites our shared endeavor,
That all may have abundant life
And peace endure forever.

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

"Meditation from Thais" by Jules Massenet (1842-1912)
Liana Austin, violin; 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 #562 Take My Gifts

1 Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter,
gave me life and set me free,
now because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising,
loaves of love to multiply!

2 Take the fruit that I have gathered
from the tree your Spirit sowed,
harvest of your own compassion,
juice that makes the wine of God,
spiced with humor, laced with laughter -
flavor of the Jesus life,
tang of risk and new adventure,
taste and zest beyond belief.

3 Take whatever I can offer -
gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen,
talents of the hand and mind,
things made beautiful for others
in the place where I must be:
take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me.

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY

CLOSING REFLECTION

"Sonata in A minor - Andante by J.S. Bach
Liana Austin, violin

BENEDICTION

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"Arise, Your Light is Come!
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Fear Not
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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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No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.