CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

11/22/26
11:00am



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

NOVEMBER 22, 2026

Worship Leader: **Axel Catterall**

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather together in the presence of God.
Many: Christ meets us here in the faces of our neighbors.
One: Where the hungry are fed and the thirsty find drink,
Many: God is near.
One: Where the stranger is welcomed, clothed, and remembered,
Many: Christ is present.
One: Let us respond to God's grace, justice, and compassion as we celebrate God in community.

HYMN #421 We Gather Together

1 We gather together
to ask the Lord's blessing,
to live in community,
seeking God's will.
We come now, as sisters
and brother, confessing
the sins that divide
and the wrong in us still.

2 Beside us, forgiving
enabling, sustaining,
you call us, O Savior,
to life that is new.
You draw us away
from self-centered complaining.
You lead us and guide us
in ways that are true.

3 All praise to the Spirit,
provider, defender.
You offer us freedom,
to follow or stray,
Empowering all by
the hope you engender.
Grant wisdom and courage
to follow your way.

OPENING REFLECTION

"Only Trust Him," by John H. Stockton, arr. By Todd Kendall
Dorenda Morse, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:31-46

25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory.

25:32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,

25:33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

25:34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world,

25:35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

25:36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

25:37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink?

25:38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing?

25:39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'

25:40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

25:41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels,

25:42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,

25:43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

25:44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?'

25:45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'

25:46 And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

Mateo 25:31-46 Reina Valera Revisada

31 Cuando el Hijo del Hombre venga en su gloria, y todos los santos ángeles con él, entonces se sentará en su trono de gloria,

32 y serán reunidas delante de él todas las naciones, y separará a los unos de los otros, como separa el pastor las ovejas de los cabritos.

33 Y pondrá las ovejas a su derecha, y los cabritos a su izquierda.

34 Entonces el Rey dirá a los de su derecha: Venid, benditos de mi Padre, heredad el reino preparado para vosotros desde la fundación del mundo.

35 Porque tuve hambre, y me disteis de comer; tuve sed, y me disteis de beber; fui forastero, y me recogisteis;

36 estuve desnudo, y me vestisteis; enfermo, y me visitasteis; en la cárcel, y vinisteis a mí.

37 Entonces los justos le responderán diciendo: Señor, ¿cuándo te vimos hambriento, y te alimentamos, o sediento, y te dimos de beber?

38 Y ¿cuándo te vimos forastero, y te recogimos, o desnudo, y te vestimos?

39 ¿O cuándo te vimos enfermo, o en la cárcel, y vinimos a ti?

40 Y el Rey responderá y les dirá: De cierto os digo que en cuanto lo hicisteis a uno de estos mis hermanos más pequeños, a mí me lo hicisteis.

41 Entonces dirá también a los de la izquierda: Apartaos de mí, malditos, al fuego eterno preparado para el diablo y sus ángeles.

42 Porque tuve hambre, y no me disteis de comer; tuve sed, y no me disteis de beber;

43 fui forastero, y no me recogisteis; estuve desnudo, y no me vestisteis; enfermo, y en la cárcel, y no me visitasteis.

44 Entonces también ellos le responderán diciendo: Señor, ¿cuándo te vimos hambriento, sediento, forastero, desnudo, enfermo, o en la cárcel, y no te asistimos?

45 Entonces les responderá diciendo: De cierto os digo que en cuanto no lo hicisteis a uno de éstos más pequeños, tampoco a mí me lo hicisteis.

46 E irán éstos al castigo eterno, mas los justos a la vida eterna.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

HYMN #349 "I Come With Joy" 1,3,4,5

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.

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.

4 And thus we meet, and better know
the Presence, ever near,
And join our hearts and sing with joy
that Christ is risen here,
that Christ is risen here.

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.

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 .....

"Pastorale," by Michael Mazzatenta. Joyful Noise Bell Choir

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 #422 Come, O Thankful People, Come

1 Come, O thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in
as the winter storms begin;
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

2 All the blessings of the field,
all the stores the gardens yield,
all the fruits in full supply
ripened 'neath the summer sky,
All that spring with bounteous hand
scatters o'er the smiling land,
all that liberal autumn pours
from its rich o'erflowing stores.

3 These to you, our God, we owe,
source from whom all blessing flow;
and for these our songs we raise,
grateful vows and solemn praise.
Come, then, thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY

CLOSING REFLECTION

"To God Be the Glory," by William H. Doane, arr. By Mary McDonald
Dorenda Morse, piano

BENEDICTION

Some Fun Bible Trivia from Pastor Sarah for Your Weekend

Did you know the first bible printed in North America was in the Massachusett language or that African bishops had an outsized influence on what ended up in our Bibles? Our Confirmation class recently learned more about how the Bible was put together and what it includes. If you'd like to test your own Bible trivia knowledge or learn some new facts, I've created a game you can play here: https://disorganizedreligion.fun/game. Just select the number of statements you'd like to sort into true / false / opinion and it will run a game for you!

If you'd like a slightly simpler version, Lifeway Research recently posted a (relatively) simple biblical literacy test, and many people were surprised that the majority of people who claim to take the bible literally still failed the test (over 60% got an F!). You can take their test here: https://research.lifeway.com/qsm_quiz/lifeway-research-bible-literacy-quiz/ and read their findings here: https://research.lifeway.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/Lifeway-Research-Bible-Literacy-Quiz-Score-Report.pdf.

Permissions:

"We Gather Together
Contributors: Lavon Baylor
Word adaptations © 1992 The Pilgrim Press
Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-721312. All rights reserved.
I Come with Joy
© 1971, 1995 Hope Publishing Company
Contributors: Brian Wren
Text: © 1971, 1995 Hope Publishing Company
Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-721312. All rights reserved.
Pastoral
Contributors: Michael Mazzatenta
Tune: © 2025 Hope Publishing Company
Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-721312. All rights reserved.
To God Be the Glory
Contributors: Mary McDonald
Tune: © 2018 Hope Publishing Company Text: © 2018 Hope Publishing Company
Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-721312. All rights reserved.

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

7834 Tennyson Street NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122 Office: 505-856-1004 www.ucccogs.org

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