



CHURCH OF THE  
**GOOD SHEPHERD**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**04/14/24**

**11:00am**



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

***April 14, 2024***

## **Worship Leader: Judith Newby**

### **PRELUDE**.....

"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee," based on ST. AGNES, by John B. Dykes and  
Adoniram J. Gordon, arr. by Lloyd Larson  
Dorenda Morse, piano

### **WELCOME**.....

#### **HYMN #395 In Christ There Is No East or West 1-4**

**1** In Christ there is no East or West,

in Christ no South or North;

But one community of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.

**2** In Christ shall true hearts everywhere

their high communion find;

God's service is the golden cord  
close-binding humankind.

**3** In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek,

and neither slave nor free;

For men and women live in God,  
and all are kin to me.

**4** In Christ now meet both East and West,

in Christ meet South and North;

One joyous, true community  
throughout the whole wide earth.

## OPENING REFLECTION.....

“Morgen” by Richard Strauss (1894) text by John Henry Mackay

Und morgen wird die Sonne wieder scheinen  
und auf dem Wege, den ich gehen werde,  
wird uns, die Glücklichen[4] sie wieder einen  
inmitten dieser sonnenatmenden Erde...  
und zu dem Strand, dem weiten, wogenblauen,  
werden wir still und langsam niedersteigen,  
stumm werden wir uns in die Augen schauen,  
und auf uns sinkt des Glückes stummes[5] Schweigen..

English meaning: Two people longing to be together again...tomorrow.

## JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

## PRAYER.....

## SCRIPTURE.....Judith Newby

### Matthew 25:34-45, The Message

**34-36** “Then the one on the throne will say to those on his right, ‘Enter, you who are blessed by God! Take what’s coming to you in this kin(g)dom. It’s been ready for you since the world’s foundation. And here’s why:

I was hungry and you fed me,  
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,  
I was homeless and you gave me a room,  
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,  
I was sick and you stopped to visit,  
I was in prison and you came to me.’

**37-40** “Then those ‘sheep’ are going to say, ‘Teacher, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?’ Then the one on the throne will say, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.’

**41-43** “Then he will turn to the ‘goats,’ the ones on his left, and say, ‘Get out, worthless goats! You’re good for nothing but the fires of hell, eternal separation from God. And why? Because—

I was hungry and you gave me no meal,  
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,  
I was homeless and you gave me no bed,  
I was shivering and you gave me no clothes,  
Sick and in prison, and you never visited.’

**44** “Then those ‘goats’ are going to say, ‘Teacher, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or homeless or shivering or sick or in prison and didn’t help?’

**45** “He will answer them, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me—you failed to do it to me.’

**A TIME FOR ALL AGES**.....

**HYMN #539** Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant 1,2,5

**1** Won’t you let me be your servant,

Let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the grace

To let you be my servant, too.

**2** We are pilgrims on a journey

We are travelers on the road;

We are here to help each other

Go the mile and bear the load.

**5** When we sing to God in heaven  
We shall find such harmony,  
Born of all we've known together  
Of Christ's love and agony.

**SERMON**.....

**PASTORAL PRAYER**.....

**PRAYER OF JESUS**

Our Father, Our Mother,  
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**.....

"Acclamation in G Minor," by Karen Thompson

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**.....

**COMMUNION HYMN #425 For the Fruit of All Creation 1-3**

**1** For the fruit of all creation,  
thanks be to God.

For God's gifts to every nation,  
thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
Future needs in earth's safe-keeping,  
thanks be to God.

**2** In the just reward of labor,  
God's will is done.

In the help we give our neighbor,  
God's will is done.

In our world-wide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,



In the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.

**3** For the harvests of the Spirit,  
thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit,  
thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.

**COMMUNION**.....

**LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY**.....

**BENEDICTION**.....

**CLOSING CELEBRATION**.....

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," based on CORONATION, by  
Oliver Holden, arr. by Lloyd Larson  
Dorenda Morse, piano

Thank you for joining us in worship today

# Welcome!



***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 an exciting ministry in the community.

Our church is a part of a blend of four major Protestant denominations that united together in 1957 to form the United Church of Christ.

We claim the early Pilgrim and Puritan settlers of this country as part of our heritage, and 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 are a church that:

- Takes the Bible seriously, but not literally.
- Worships God with joyful hearts and open minds.
- Includes children in the life and ministry of the church.
- Celebrates creativity and the arts.
- Seeks to be inclusive of ALL people.
- Believes that growth in wisdom and understanding happens at all stages of life.
- 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.
- Looks to Jesus as teacher, prophet and Child of God.

## 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](http://www.ucccogs.org)

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