

**GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH:
INCLUSIVE – INSPIRING – INVOLVED**

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

7834 Tennyson Street NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87122

Phone: 505-856-1004 [Fax: 505-856-7759]

E-mail: cogs@goodshepherdunitedchurch.com

Website: www.goodshepherdunitedchurch.com

The Reverend William D. Ingraham, Pastor and Teacher

Welcome!

We are delighted to have you worshiping with us today! The Church of the Good Shepherd (COGS) 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.

PEACE

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2009

** Those who wish are invited to stand as they are able.
Nursery care is available for babies to age 3.*

GATHERING SONG "I've Got Peace Like a River" #478

PRELUDE "Peace Is Flowing Like a River" Landry/Temple/Vogt
"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"
Dorenda Morse, piano

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS and CONCERNS

SHARING GOD’S LOVE and PEACE

*CALL TO WORSHIP Lois Tulga

One: Hear the voice of one crying in the wilderness:
Prepare the Way of the Lord!

Many: **We come into this place to worship God, readying ourselves to hear holy words and to respond with lives of faith and love.**

One: Prepare the way! Lift up the low places and make level the land.

Many: **We gather here in Christ’s name, ready to hear Good News, and to live lives of faithful service, sharing hope and peace in all we say and do.**

One: Make smooth the rough places. Prepare the way!

Many: **In this time, on this day, we come into God’s presence, preparing ourselves to meet again the child of Bethlehem and to offer ourselves for Christian service.**

All: **May our worship here, and the service of our lives, bring God honor and glory, as we seek to proclaim Hope and Peace for all the world.**
Amen.

*OPENING HYMN "Comfort, Comfort O My People" #101

*MORNING PRAYER (in unison) Lois Tulga

One: Please pray with me.

All: Our heavenly, loving God,

We thank you for the gift of this day, and for your blessings shared with this church community. We gather here in the name of Christ. In your love, you have called us into being, giving us life and breath, and assuring us of boundless mercy and endless grace.

Help us to be faithful, Holy One, that in our worship here and in our lives in the world, we might honor you in all we say and do.

Give us hope in times of trouble and peace in times of struggle.

Be a light unto our paths and lead us in your ways, that we might know

Good News and learn to share it. Lead us once again

to Bethlehem's manger, and open our hearts to the Christ child,

so that we may ever be his faithful followers, both in this life,

and in the life to come. All this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTHEM "Gloria" Ola Gjeilo
Women's Ensemble

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Ingraham

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES The Jessup family

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 3:1-6 Lois Tulga

SERMON "Prepare" Rev. Ingraham

SILENT PRAYER / PASTORAL PRAYER / OUR SAVIOR'S PRAYER

Our Father, our Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Lou Tulga

Offertory

"Christmas Medley"
Joyful Noise Handbells

arr. Linda McKechnie

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessing 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

Lou Tulga

*COMMUNION HYMN

"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

#337

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNIONS

Everyone is welcomed to receive communion in this church. We use grape juice, bread, wafers and gluten-free rice cake. Communion will be served at the front of the church by intinction, where participants dip bread in a chalice. An usher will invite everyone, row by row, to come forward by the center aisle. Please return to your seats by a side aisle.

Communion Music

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

13th Century Plainsong

*PARTING HYMN

"There's a Voice in the Wilderness"

#120

BENEDICTION

Rev. Ingraham

(Please leave quietly, so those who wish to listen to the Postlude may do so.)

POSTLUDE

"The Snow Lay On the Ground"

Traditional Carol

Kate Sauer, organ