

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

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

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The Reverend William D. Ingraham, Pastor and Teacher

BELOVED & GIFTED
First Sunday after Christmas
December 27, 2009

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

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.

GATHERING SONG "Joy to the World" #132

PRELUDE *Dorenda Morse, piano*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS and CONCERNS

SHARING GOD’S LOVE and PEACE

*CALL TO WORSHIP Pat Rosenak

Leader: Where ignorance, self-love and insensitivity
have fractured life in the community,

People: Give your light, O God of love.

Leader: Where injustice and oppression
have broken the spirit of peoples,

People: Give your light, O God who frees.

Leader: Where hunger and poverty, illness and death
have made life an unbearable burden,

People: Give your light, O God of grace.

Leader: Where suspicion and hatred, conflict and fear
have challenged your goodness,

People: Give your light, O God of peace.

*OPENING HYMN "See the Little Baby" #147

*MORNING PRAYER (in unison) Pat Rosenak

**Eternal God, open the eyes of the nations and peoples
so that they may walk in the light of love:
remove the ignorance and stubbornness of nations and peoples
so that they may drink from the fountains of your goodness.
Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC *Nancy Kolenc, soloist*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Michael Haley

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:1-14 Pat Rosenak

SERMON "A Circle of Gifts" Rev. Kim Fields-Haley

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 Pat Rosenak

Offertory "Carol of the Bells"
Joyful Noise Bell Choir

*Doxology "Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain) #125
Glo-----ria, in excelsis Deo,
Glo-----ria, in excelsis Deo.

*Prayer of Dedication Pat Rosenak

*PARTING HYMN "Called As Partners in Christ's Service" (vs. 1, 2, 4) #495

BENEDICTION Rev. Kim Fields-Haley

RESPONSE "Go Tell It on the Mountain" (verse 3) #154

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

POSTLUDE "Christmastide"
Dorenda Morse, piano, & Kate Sauer, organ