

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

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

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**The Reverend William D. Ingraham, Pastor and Teacher**

*Order of Worship  
January 31, 2010*

*\* 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 "United by God's Love" (English vs. 1 & 2) #392

PRELUDE "How Deep Our Savior's Love for Us" by Stuart Townend  
*Dorenda & Kate, duet*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS and CONCERNS

SHARING GOD’S LOVE and PEACE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Bruce St John

One: Sing praises to God!

Lift up your hearts and be glad.

**Many: We come into this place with joy and thanksgiving.  
Surely the love of God is present in this place.**

One: God’s love is transforming power. It is inspiring!  
It leads us in new paths and makes all things new.

**Many: We have grown in love through all our lives, and seek now  
To grow further still. May we one day become truly loving.**

One: Heavenly love is more than feelings or emotions.  
It is the measure of our lives and the grounding of our souls.

**Many: We open ourselves to love’s instruction,  
Seeking to pattern our lives after the example of Jesus the Christ.**

**All: May heavenly love abide with us this day,  
And in our loving, may it be shown to all the world. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" #252

\*MORNING PRAYER (in unison) Bruce St John

One: Please pray with me.

All: **Our Heavenly God,**

**We thank you for the gift of love, and for the wonders of living  
as your beloved children. You give us life and put love in our hearts.  
Through good times and bad times, you hold us in your tender care –  
sharing our pain and sorrow, knowing our struggles  
and accomplishments, and celebrating with us in our times of joy.  
Your love holds us securely. We are safe with you,  
and we give you thanks. Help us, gracious God,  
to live our lives emboldened by your love. Help us to remember  
that you love all people everywhere, and that heavenly love calls us  
to do the same. In our lives and in this church, help us to be motivated  
by boundless love, so that it can be truly said that love abides here.  
This we ask in Christ's name. Amen.**

ANTHEM "The Gift of Love" arr. by Hal Hopson  
*Chancel Choir*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Ingraham

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Bruce St John

SERMON "Love" 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

Bruce St John

Offertory

"O for a Thousand Tongues"

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

*Joyful Noise Bell Choir*

\*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

Bruce St John

\*PARTING HYMN

"Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"

#393

BENEDICTION

Rev. Ingraham

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

POSTLUDE

"Love Divine, All Love Excelling"

by John Zundel

*Dorenda Morse, piano*