

**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

Order of Worship
March 7, 2010

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

GATHERING SONG "God of the Sparrow God of the Whale" (vs. 1, 2, 3, & 6) #32

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS and CONCERNS

SHARING GOD'S LOVE and PEACE

(Please return to your seats when you hear the bells.)

PRELUDE "Lord Speak to Me That I may Speak" by Schumann/Liszt/Houser
Dorenda Morse, pianist

*CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Kirby Lewis

One: Hey! Come on in! Don't hesitate! And listen:
If you're thirsty, there's plenty of water here for you today!

**Many: Thirsty? Us? Why, we've brought our little bottles of water.
And besides, why would thirsty people look for water in worship?**

One: No, no, no. I'm talking about that deep, deep down thirst. True,
your thirst may need quenching with water. But maybe, just maybe,
you have a thirst for divine blessing, for heavenly love and boundless mercy.

**Many: We do thirst in many ways. We often long for something that fulfills,
and look for things that will comfort, please, and reassure us.
We find ourselves seeking to be grounded, to find meaning and identity.**

One: God can be our source of grounding. Like water to the thirsty
and rich food to the famished, God's boundless love and mercy
can sustain us. God is our source of strength, and of everlasting hope.

**Many: Let us seek God while God may be found.
Let us call upon God's name while God is near.**

**All: For the God of heaven, in boundless love and goodness, offers to us
a heavenly quenching and divine fullness that sustains:
Here and now, and forever; for us, and for everyone. Amen.**

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.

*OPENING HYMN "God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak" #531

*MORNING PRAYER (in unison) Rev. Kirby Lewis

One: Please pray with me.

**All: Our gracious, ever-present God,
You sustain us in the desert places. In a parched and weary land,
you offer the waters of life that quench our inmost thirst.
In our hearts' famine, you provide the banquet of your mercy,
tenderness and care. Yet so often we choose to wander in the wilderness
of self-reliance rather than dwell in the oasis of your bounty.
So easily we worry about ourselves with little concern for the people
beyond our doors, or our arms' reach, or our car's windows.
We stress about our troubles, our debts, our fears, and forget
that we are not alone. We have you as a source of hope.
And we have each other, our family of faith. Forgive us, we pray.
Help us to recognize your abundant blessings and their countless
benefits to us. Inspire us to equal concern for others, and ourselves,
that we might share water and food with all who thirst and hunger.
And help us always to be faithful and hopeful, so that in our living,
we will know your love and mercy, proclaiming it to a world
that thirsts so deeply. This we ask in Christ's name. Amen.**

ANTHEM "Prayer for the Gifts" by Lange
Women's Ensemble

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Ingraham

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 55:1-9 Rev. Kirby Lewis

SERMON "Seek the LORD" Rev. Ingraham

SILENT PRAYER / PASTORAL PRAYER / OUR SAVIOR'S PRAYER

**Our Father, our Mother, who is in heaven, Holy be your name.
Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Rev. Kirby Lewis

Offertory

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

arr. by C. Dobrinski

Joyful Noise Bell Choir

*Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Kirby Lewis

*COMMUNION HYMN

"Jesus Is Here Right Now"

#348

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

Communion Music

Chorale on "Bread of Life"

arr. Steven Scot

Kate Sauer, organist

*PARTING HYMN

"Lift High the Cross" (vs. 1, 2, & 3)

#198

BENEDICTION

Rev. Ingraham

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

POSTLUDE

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

by Herren/Larson

Dorenda Morse, pianist