

**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*  
*March 21, 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 "Sing, Praise to God, Our Highest Good" (vs. 1-3) #6

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS and CONCERNS

SHARING GOD’S LOVE and PEACE

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

PRELUDE

*Dorenda Morse, pianist*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lois Tulga

One: We gather as a community of faith, opening our hearts and minds to inspiration and possibility as we worship God together.

**Many: We gather here with brothers and sisters of faith. We are one, together. In the midst of diversity and difference we unite our hearts in praise.**

One: There is much for us to hear, see and know. God is Still Speaking. So we open ourselves to hear and believe and believe in new ways.

**Many: In this hour of worship, we seek to know anew the ways of God. We are open to discerning who we are called to be and become.**

One: God is about to do a new thing. Can we perceive it? God makes a way in the wilderness. Are we willing to follow?

**Many: A way opens up before us, this very day, and every day.**

**May God guide our feet as we live into an unknown future.**

**All: In all our days, Divine goodness has been a constant companion.**

**Let us trust God to lead and sustain us, this day, and always. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN "This Is a Day of New Beginnings" (vs. 1-4) #417

\*MORNING PRAYER (in unison) Lois Tulga

One: Please pray with me.

**All: Gracious, Heavenly God,  
From the dawn of time and through to today, you express love and care for all creation. Through prophets of old and in the hearts of faithful people, your ways are made known from generation to generation. To the farthest reaches of the earth and through time immemorial, you breathe inspiration upon your children. You speak in a still small voice, stirring their hearts with the rush of a wind. You give light and warmth through the dark, cold nights of the soul. Our parents and grandparents taught us your ways. Yet we cannot live in the past, nor can we find comfort that endures in other people's faith. We must find and express our own faith in the present day. Teach us to hear your Still Speaking voice, and show us your ways. Open our hearts and minds to new possibilities, and give us the faith to proclaim hope, for us, and for everyone. Help us to find ways to offer our neighbors, children and grandchildren something that uplifts and sustains. And help us to become the community you call us to be, right here at the foot of this mountain. This we pray in the name of Christ. Amen.**

ANTHEM "The Spirit Makes All Things New" by Pepper Choplin  
*Chancel Choir – with Gregory Vigil, flutist*  
*(Please see insert for lyrics)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Ingraham

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 43:16-21 Lois Tulga

SERMON "A New Thing" 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

Lois Tulga

Offertory

"Prayer"

by Leon Boellmann

*Kate Sauer, organist*

\*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

Lois Tulga

\*PARTING HYMN "Creator God, Creating Still" #278

BENEDICTION Rev. Ingraham

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

POSTLUDE *Dorenda Morse, pianist*