

**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 28, 2010*

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.

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

PRELUDE

"Celebration"
Kate Sauer, organist

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS and CONCERNS

SHARING GOD’S LOVE and PEACE

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

PROCESSION OF PALMS

"Procession and Hymn for Palm Sunday" arr. Craig Courtney
– Congregation is invited to sing on the final verse with the choirs –

**Hosanna, in the highest, that ancient song is ours,
We hail our great Redeemer we sing with all our powers;
Oh may we ever praise you with heart and life and voice,
And in your holy presence, eternally rejoice!**

*CALL TO WORSHIP Hollis Gillespie

One: The procession started on the other side of the Mount of Olives.
With cloaks for a saddle, Jesus rode on a colt toward Jerusalem.

**Many: As Jesus went from the Mount up to the city of Jerusalem,
the crowd of disciples grew. A great throng gathered to cheer for Jesus.**

One: They laid their cloaks on the road, making a royal way for him.
“Blessed is the King!” They shouted. “Peace in Heaven!”

**Many: Their voices rang out, to the walls of the city and beyond.
They shouted, “Glory to God in the Highest Heaven!”**

One: Not everyone was cheering. Religious leaders observed all this,
and grew worried about retribution from the Romans.

**Many: They pleaded with Jesus. “Teacher, order your followers to stop!”
But Jesus would not stop them. Perhaps he *could not* stop them.**

**All: “If these were silent,” Jesus replied, “the stones would shout!”
And he rode on into the city, with his disciples close at hand.**

*OPENING HYMN "Filled with Excitement" (English vs. 1 & 2) #214

*MORNING PRAYER (in unison) Hollis Gillespie

One: Please pray with me.

**All: Our Heavenly, Loving God,
Sometimes we hesitate to join the parade. We are not sure we agree
with the parade’s intention, or we may not want to go where it’s headed.
And besides, all that shouting and cheering, and the endless walking
under a hot desert sun, just don’t appeal. Yet there are times we need
to get up and join in the procession, leaving our lawn chairs
and the cool shade behind us. In time, we might even grow comfortable
with not knowing where we’re going until we arrive there.
Perhaps the process of moving forward together can be enough for us,
at least for a while, until we get a feel for where we’re headed
and what we’ll be doing. Our lives have taught us that the way can be
long and difficult. The risks are real and the challenges, great.
Yet heavenly love and boundless mercy compel us. You call us
to follow Jesus, to be an inclusive community that welcomes all,
to live and share Good News, and to work tirelessly for justice
and peace. Please give us faith, loving God, and courage, too –
to get up from our comfort zone and walk in Christ’s ways.
Help us to be and become the community of faith you need us to be.
This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

ANTHEM "Hosanna" by Jackson Berkey

Chancel Choir

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Rev. Ingraham

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 19:28-40 Hollis Gillespie

SERMON “When Stones Would Shout!” 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 Hollis Gillespie

Offertory *Dorenda Morse, pianist*

*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 Hollis Gillespie

RITUAL OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP *see insert*

Tresha Binabese – Arlene Graham – Diana Lamb
Michelle Lopez – Kaylen Lopez

*PARTING HYMN "All Glory, Laud and Honor" #216

BENEDICTION Rev. Ingraham

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

POSTLUDE "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" arr. M. Burkhardt
Kate Sauer, organist