

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

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

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The Reverend William D. Ingraham, Pastor and Teacher

Easter Sunday – April 4, 2010

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

PRELUDE "Adagio for Strings" by Samuel Barber
Kate Sauer, organist

CHORAL INTROIT "Why Weepest Thou?" by J.N. Beck

*OPENING HYMN "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" #233

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS and CONCERNS

SHARING GOD'S LOVE and PEACE

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP Richard Mitchell

One: It was early that first Easter morning. The sun wasn't up yet.
Mary Magdalene walked alone to the tomb where Jesus had been buried.

**Many: It's not so early for us on this Easter morning, and we sure didn't walk here!
We've had our fill of breakfast. Our children have even hunted for eggs.**

One: Mary found the stone gone and the tomb, empty. She ran to tell Peter and the
beloved disciple. They hurried to the open, empty tomb to see for themselves.

**Many: Running hasn't been a part of our Easter morning, either,
except for the egg hunt. And who should we tell about what we've found here?
What should we say?**

One: The disciples had left, but Mary returned and stayed at the open tomb
until she encountered Jesus. It took a while. And she didn't recognize him at first.

**Many: We will tarry here a while this Easter. Perhaps we, too,
will encounter the Risen Christ in spoken words, prayers,
and the sounds of instruments and singing.**

**All: May our hearts and minds be open to the living presence of Jesus the Christ,
that we might find faith and courage today to proclaim Good News
to a world sorely in need of new life and hope. 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.

*HYMN "Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One" (vs. 1-3) #253

*MORNING PRAYER (in unison) Richard Mitchell

One: Please pray with me.
All: **Our Heavenly, Loving God,
We gather to celebrate your living presence among us.
Easter's empty tomb proclaims Good News, for us and for all.
While political or religious powers may hold sway for a time,
they can neither defeat nor contain your radical, all-inclusive love,
nor can they deter your bent toward justice and peace. Help us,
loving God, to follow the example of Jesus, deeply centering
our lives and faith in you, your ways, and your will.
Inspire us with Christ-like compassion, and give us courage to love
and serve you and your children with our whole lives.
Free us from the bondage of hatred, prejudice or fear,
and empower us to use our freedom for heaven's benefit, right here,
right now. This we ask boldly, in the name of Jesus, the risen Christ.
Amen.**

ANTHEM "Resurrection Victory" by Lloyd Larson
Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Ingraham

SCRIPTURE READING John 20:1-18 Richard Mitchell

SERMON "Early, on the First Day" 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 Richard Mitchell

Offertory "How Beautiful" Twila Paris/arr. Mark Hayes
Dorenda Morse, pianist

*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 Richard Mitchell

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 "I Know that My Redeemer Liveth" by G.F. Handel
John Golobic, trumpet — Kate Sauer, organist

*PARTING HYMN "The Day of Resurrection" #245

BENEDICTION Rev. Ingraham

CHORAL POSTLUDE "Hallelujah Chorus" by G.F. Handel
— The congregation is invited to stand and sing with the choir —

Brass Quintet
Trumpet: John Golobic, Michael Sandoval, TJ Seaman
French Horn: Sue Thomas
Trombone: Tom Golden