

**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
April 11, 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 "Incarnate God, Immortal Love" (vs. 1, 3, & 5) # 414

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

Dennis Evans

One: On the first Easter morning, Mary Magdalene found the tomb empty.
She told Peter and the beloved disciple, who ran out to see for themselves.
Upon entering and looking around, they confirmed its emptiness.

Many: Mary tarried after they had left, encountering first two angels, and then Jesus. Jesus sent her off to tell the disciples what she had seen, which she joyfully did.

One: Later, on Easter’s evening, most of the disciples were together in a house.
Because they were afraid, the doors were secure, closed tight and locked.

Many: Jesus appeared to them, blessed them, and breathed the Spirit into them. Thomas wasn’t there, so he missed all this. He couldn’t believe it was true.

One: One week later, the disciples were together again – this time, with Thomas.
The doors were still securely shut, and once again, Jesus appeared.

Many: Jesus offered Thomas the evidence he needed, inviting him to see, to touch, and to believe. Thomas was so moved, he made a profound confession: “My Lord, and my God.”

All: Like Thomas, may we be honest and dedicated, even through our doubts and disbelief, so that we can come to find understanding for ourselves, grounding our lives in a genuine faith we can claim as our own.

*OPENING HYMN "We Live by Faith and Not by Sight" #256

*MORNING PRAYER (in unison) Dennis Evans

One: Please pray with me.

**All: Our Heavenly, Loving God,
You have created each of us as a good part of your intentional creation, and we give you thanks. Your people are blessed with a broad variety of cultures and identities, of histories and experiences, and of insights and perspectives. Questions and doubts are an essential to our journey toward understanding. We have been given the capacity to think things through, to weight different concepts, and to decide for ourselves what we will hold as true or false, how we will live our lives, and what we will believe. Help us not to be stuck in the present or the past. Instead, inspire us to be open to new ways of thinking and being. You are still speaking. Help us to listen, and to grow, so that we might be and become the individuals, and the community, you need for us to be, both here on this mountain, and throughout the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

ANTHEM "We Are One" by Brian Tate
Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Ingraham

SCRIPTURE READING John 20:19-31 Dennis Evans

SERMON "Faithful Doubting" 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 Dennis Evans

Offertory "Your Sacred Word" by J. S. Bach
Kate Sauer, organist

*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 Dennis Evans

*PARTING HYMN "Not with Naked Eye, Not with Human Sense" #406
(vs. 1, 4, & 5)

BENEDICTION Rev. Ingraham

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

POSTLUDE *Dorenda Morse, pianist*