

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

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

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The Reverend William D. Ingraham, Pastor and Teacher

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.

Order of Worship
April 18, 2010

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

GATHERING SONG "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" #12

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: There are number of definitions for “vision” in the dictionary.
They vary in implication and meaning. Each offers insight.

**Many: Vision is the faculty of sight or seeing; in other words, the ability to see.
But vision can also be of a specific object – a particular thing that is seen.**

One: A vision can be mystical – something supernatural or otherworldly.
It may afford a new glimpse of the divine, of the heavens, or the earth.
It can cast light on a new way to live and be in the world.

**Many: And one can have a vision of something imagined that does not yet exist.
Perhaps it is a vision of something to be found, created or worked toward.**

One: A vision can be held by individuals and groups, alike.
It can define a community as it charts a course into the future.

**Many: Our worship today participates in a visioning process for this church.
We pray it will help us to understand and name who are as a community,
and that it will help us to see who we hope to become in the future.**

**All: May we find a vision that leads and inspires us, for heaven’s sake,
that we might live the words we are about to sing together:
“Be now my Vision, O God of my heart.” Amen, and amen.**

*OPENING HYMN "Be Now My Vision" #451

*MORNING PRAYER (in unison) Lois Tulga

One: Please pray with me.

All: **Our Heavenly, Loving God,**

We gather in Christ's name, friends and family in this community of faith. Some of us are new, worshiping here perhaps for the first time today. Others have been here for several months, or even years on end. Our tenures are unique to each of us, and together, we form the body of Christ known as Church of the Good Shepherd. We thank you for calling us together as a family of faith. Help us to appreciate the unique gifts and blessings each person offers. Empower us to be a place of genuine welcome that not only accepts the diversity of all who come, but also celebrates each and every one as a good part of your intentional creation. And give us a vision, we pray – your vision for this church community. Free us to become something new together: building on the foundation of this church's history, and utilizing the skills and craft of our community today, help us to live, grow and move into your future for us; so that we might be and become the congregation you call us to be, serving you and your people, both here on this mountain, and throughout the world. This we ask in Christ's name. Amen.

ANTHEM "Dreams" poem by Langston Hughes
Good Shepherd Quartet music by Rollo Dilworth

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Ingraham

SCRIPTURE READING Joel 2:23-28 Lois Tulga

SERMON "Dreams and Visions" 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. Ingraham

Offertory

"The Church's One Foundation"

arr. Douglas Wagner

Joyful Noise Bell Choir

*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

Lois Tulga

*PARTING HYMN "Called as Partners in Christ's Service" (vs. 1 - 3) #495

BENEDICTION

Rev. Ingraham

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

POSTLUDE

"Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices"

arr. M. Burkhardt

Kate Sauer, organist