

**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
May 9, 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 "O God in Whom All Life Begins" #401

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS and CONCERNS

SHARING GOD’S LOVE and PEACE

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

PRELUDE "God, Whose Almighty Word" by Felice de Giardini
Kate Sauer, organist

*CALL TO WORSHIP Roberta Glaser

One: Paul and Silas traveled together, establishing communities of faith.

Many: There are a few still here who established this church 50 years ago.

All of us get to re-establish the church as we live into our future, together.

One: Paul and Silas had planned to go in one direction, but in a dream,
Paul was told to change course and go in a completely different way.

Many: Woah! A dream? That is remarkable, truly. It’s hard to imagine changing everything based on a dream – and for Silas, it was somebody else’s dream!

One: They found their way by boat, taking two consecutive voyages.
They arrived in Macedonia, what now is Europe, and set to work.

Many: In this time and place, we will aspire to be open to the Spirit’s leadings, ready to be taken in new directions as we seek to be faithful and hopeful.

All: May the Spirit of Christ be our inspiration and our guide. And may we ever be and become the community of faith God needs in this place.

*OPENING HYMN "Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls" #383

*MORNING PRAYER (in unison) Roberta Glaser

One: Please pray with me.

**All: Our Gracious, Caring God,
You have created us in love and tenderness, placing us in a universe
that is beautifully and wonderfully made. We were cradled by the arms
of love from birth, given opportunities to live, and grow, and learn,
and love, all as your blessed children. From the dawn of time, you have
been a Mother to your creation, birthing new life and caring tenderly,
encouraging wisdom and exploration, challenging to justice and peace,
and offering inspiration and hope from generation to generation.
Help us to be grateful for all you have done, and continue to do,
in the name of love. And lead us in your ways, that we might bring you
honor as we serve you and your creation. This we pray in Christ's name.
Amen.**

ANTHEM "Bonse Aba" Traditional Zambian Song
Men's Ensemble

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Ingraham

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 16:9-15 Roberta Glaser

SERMON "Lydia and Her Household" 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

Roberta Glaser

Offertory

Dorenda Morse, pianist

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings 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

Roberta Glaser

*PARTING HYMN "Pues si vivimos" (vs. 1, 1, & 2) #499

BENEDICTION Rev. Ingraham

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

POSTLUDE "From God Can Nothing Move Me" arr. J. Bliersch
Kate Sauer, organist