

**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 16, 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 "Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve" (vs. 1, 2, & 4) #491

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

Hollis Gillespie

One: Paul and Silas worked to make converts and establish churches, sharing the Good News about Jesus at places of prayer.

Many: The stories of the early church prove that it wasn’t always easy for them. To say the least, not everyone appreciated all that they said and did.

One: Paul was said to have freed a slave from the demon that possessed her. That infuriated her owners, who took him before the authorities.

Many: Their act of compassion and healing had a troublesome reward. Very quickly, Paul and Silas found themselves stripped, beaten, and imprisoned.

One: In their deep, dark prison cell, Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns. Perhaps it was for their own encouragement, or maybe for others’ benefit.

Many: Suddenly, an unlikely earthquake freed the prisoners. Yet none fled. Paul reassured the distraught guard. “Don’t harm yourself. We’re all here.”

All: Deeply moved, the guard and his household joined the Jesus movement. What a story! Let us try to understand what it means for us, today.

*OPENING HYMN "We Who Would Valiant Be" #494

*MORNING PRAYER (in unison) Hollis Gillespie

One: Please pray with me.

**All: Our Heavenly, Loving God,
We have inherited ancient stories of Christian faith. Established
in the Bible and handed down from generation to generation,
these stories can be both familiar and foreign. Some feel true,
and so very real. Others seem strange, or even impossible.
Yet all have come from our forbearers as gifts to us and
to future generations. Open our hearts and minds, gracious God.
As we approach the scripture, help us to seek truth and meaning,
and to integrate them into our daily living. And inspire us, we pray,
to follow the example of Paul and Silas. Let our faith not be something
we store-away, hidden and guarded. Lead us to an engaged faith,
so that we might freely share the life, love and hope we have
with glad and generous hearts. This we pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

ANTHEM "Hear My Prayer" by Moses Hogan
Chancel Choir

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Gwendolyn Marie Lewis
Elizabeth Anne Lewis

HYMN "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" #325

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Ingraham

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 16:16-34 Hollis Gillespie

SERMON "Compassion's Consequences
(or Eschewing Exploitation)" 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 "O God beyond All Praising" by David Cherwien
Kate Sauer, organist

*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 Hollis Gillespie

*PARTING HYMN "O Jesus, I Have Promised" #493

BENEDICTION Rev. Ingraham

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

POSTLUDE *Dorenda Morse, pianist*