

**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
July 18, 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 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" (vs. 1, 3, 5) #489

TOMATO TORNADO SONG "One Ton Tomato"

Chorus: One ton tomato, We needa one ton tomato.
One ton tomato, We needa one ton tomato.

Verse: There's a big storm a-brewin', And it happens ev'ry year;
A tomato tornado, But there's never any fear.
When we open up our hearts, And we all do our part.

Chorus

Verse: Our goal is ten thousand, Getting bigger ev'ry year;
A tomato tornado, But there's never any fear.
Soup, spaghetti, and sauces; So many tomato dishes.

Chorus

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christa Manning

JOYS and CONCERNS

SHARING GOD’S LOVE and PEACE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

“A Very Special Guest”
Children’s Choir

by Tom Long
& Allen Pote

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mendy Brown

One: In their relationship, Mary and Martha were having a particularly tense day. Rather, Martha was tense. Mary seemed to be doing just fine!

Many: Mary sat at Jesus' feet as one of his disciples, soaking in his every word. We can imagine the joy she felt to occupy that place of honor and privilege.

One: Martha, who is named as head of their house, knew well her responsibilities. Anger and frustration built up as she met hospitality's requirements unassisted.

Many: When she could stand no more, Martha confronted both Mary and Jesus! It never occurred to her that Jesus might not come to her defense.

One: Jesus' response affirmed that Mary was in her proper place. Preachers and scholars alike have long derided Martha for her the tension she felt.

Many: Let us resist the temptation to dismiss Martha and her anger as unfaithful. Instead, we can honor her motivation – to serve Jesus as an honored guest.

All: In both our strengths and shortcomings, in shining and tarnished moments alike, may we learn to seek heaven's purpose and divine will, for us, and for all.

*OPENING HYMN "Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ" #520

*MORNING PRAYER (in unison) Mendy Brown

One: Please pray with me.

All: Our Heavenly, Loving God, We understand well the tensions that arise when two or more find urgency in competing priorities. We can find anger and resentment building to crescendo, especially with loved ones. Sometimes we blame others for having their own ideas, their own approaches, and their own perspectives. Open our eyes, God of love, to see the good intentions of our sisters and brothers. Give us minds that comprehend the diversity of your call, and the unique ways you inspire each of us to follow you. And by your mercy, help us to recognize when we are wrong and need to change our ways. Give us the courage to start anew, and a willingness to refocus our lives. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ANTHEM *Special Music presented by the "COGS Pick-Up-Choir"*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Ingraham

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 10:38-42 Mendy Brown

SERMON "The Better Part" 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 Mendy Brown

Offertory "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" by Converse/Shackley
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 Mendy Brown

*PARTING HYMN "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" #546

BENEDICTION Rev. Ingraham

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

POSTLUDE "Whatever God Ordains Is Right" arr. David Cherwien
Kate Sauer, organist