

**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  
August 8, 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 “What a Covenant” (verses 1 and 3) #471

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS Lou Ann Shafer

JOYS and CONCERNS

SHARING GOD’S LOVE and PEACE  
*(Please return to your seats when you hear the bells.)*

PRELUDE "Petit Lied" by Henri Mulet

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Blanche Griffin

One: We gather here in Your Presence, Lord, . . .

**All: . . . in our need and bringing with us the needs of the world.**

One: We come to You for You come to us in Jesus.

**All: You know by experience what our lives are like.**

One: We come with our faith and with our doubts.

**All: We come with our hopes and our fears.**

One: We come as we are because You invite us to come.

**All: We dare to come because You have promised to never turn us away.**

\*OPENING HYMN “God Is My Shepherd” #479

UNISON MORNING PRAYER Blanche Griffin

**Ever-present and loving God, forgive us for the times  
we have not turned to You in prayer.  
Forgive us for letting our lack of faith, our anger, our bitterness  
and our hurt come between You and us.  
Forgive us for not making time to open our hearts and minds to You.  
Forgive us for seeking our joy and healing elsewhere than in Your loving embrace.  
Fill us now with Your Holy Spirit. Make us new.  
Keep us humble, for if in any way we lift our lantern,  
it surely is Your Light that shines therein.  
In Jesus' Name. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC by Puccini  
"Vissi D'arte" from Tosca  
*Jean Lindahl, soloist*

Translation of "Vissi D'arte":  
I lived for my art, I lived for love,  
I never did harm to a living soul!  
With a secret hand  
I relieved as many misfortunes as I knew of.  
Always with true faith  
my prayer rose to the holy shrines.  
Always with true faith  
I gave flowers to the altar.  
In the hour of grief  
why, why, O Lord,  
why do you reward me thus?

SCRIPTURE READINGS Blanche Griffin  
Psalm 139:1-3, 7-10, 13-18  
Isaiah 49:13-16

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH – *in unison* #885

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Rath  
"Adam in the Garden Hiding"

SERMON Rev. Rath  
"Identity: Who I am – Whose I am!"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: A Bidding Prayer – Silent Prayers – The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation Blanche Griffin

Offertory arr. Healey Willan  
"Rejoice, Give Thanks"

\*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 Blanche Griffin

\*PARTING HYMN #485  
"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING Rev. Rath

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

POSTLUDE by John Zundel  
"Love Divine"