

(Parts of the service in **bold** are for everyone to speak in unison.)

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Video

Prayer of Invocation

**Come, Spirit of God,
Sweep through our world bringing great change.
May the bounty of your goodness be shared more justly,
So all may share in the rich blessings of your creation.
And, for us, bring transformation in our praying and living,
So that we may act justly, love mercy,
And walk humbly with you all the days of our lives.
Amen.**

Hymn 456

Listen, God is Calling

(next page)

Scripture Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Sermon

(continued)

Listen, God Is Calling

456

Refrain

Leader *All*

Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader *All*

1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader *All* *to Refrain*

that he came to save us and set us free.
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.
walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

Affirmation of Faith ~ posted on The United Church of Canada website. <http://www.united-church.ca/beliefs/creed>

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father and Mother in Heaven, hallowed is 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn 754

Help Us Accept Each Other

(next page)

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Good Shepherd Staff

Bridge Pastor: Rev. Bethany Benz-Whittington
Choir Director: Sara Tyburczy

Office Admin: Teddie McConnell
Accompanist: Dr. Jonathan Morris

Help Us Accept Each Other 754



1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept-ed us;
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,



teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:



we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!



Good Stuff @ Good Shepherd



Dear Good Shepherd Faith Community,

I am grateful for the opportunity to do ministry with all of you...to reflect, dream and create as well as serve and play together...even if it's playing on Zoom for a while.

I have enjoyed reading a book - *Mapping the World: Stories of Geography*, written by Caroline and Martine Laffon, and want to share a piece of it with you.

It's a beautifully produced book that traces some of the history of how we humans have sought to chart the universe, and our place within it, over millennia. With images of maps from ancient to contemporary times, the book reveals how maps are never neutral documents: they provide a glimpse of the beliefs, myths, legends, and sometimes prejudices of those who created them.

I have spent some time during this COVID-19 season thinking about maps and the question has surfaced again and again: in a world that we enter with no map in hand, no blueprint, no book of instructions, how do we find our way?

In "Mapping these Mysteries of Faith" we know we don't always have the answers immediately in front of us BUT I am reminded of how crucial it is to have the company of wise travelers as we make a new map for us individually and for Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church.

We need your thoughts, your vision, your gifts & talents...we need YOU and I look forward to getting to know you all and having you get to know me as we journey together.

I find myself thinking of the Magi, those ancient travelers who went in search of the Christ.

Wise to the heavens, they still possessed no map, no ready-made chart that laid out their course. As Matthew tells it, all that the magi had to illuminate their terrain and guide their way was a star. This was where their map began: with a burning light, with a step taken, with the company of others gazing in the same direction.

So in that spirit, know that I am looking forward to meeting you and getting to know you better...always in a safe manner and with appropriate physical distancing of course.

(continued)

I have heard such wonderful comments about your faith community and the ministries you are providing to the world. I look forward to our conversations and shared ministry as we step into Good Shepherds future together.

Please feel free to contact me at Revmo25@gmail.com until my church email is set up or on my cell phone 303-475-3883. I officially begin my time with you all on Sunday, September 20 and for that I say Thanks Be To God...Alleluia and Amen.

Peace, Sheri

Rev. Sheri Fry

Interim Pastor

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church



Bob Mitchell 9/14

Jackson Gabbard 9/16

Jan Myers 9/17

Colleen Wager 9/18

David Wolters 9/22

Trenity Tanner 9/24

Rodger Sillars 9/26

Joys and Concerns

Please pray for Barbie S. who had a knee replacement and Michelle W. who had cancer surgery. Both are resting at home; for communities affected by COVID-19 or by human rights violations here in the United States and throughout the world, and for our church, that it may thrive as it brings the good news to our area.