



All are invited to worship God here. Our Mission Statement: This church is a family of faith coming from different backgrounds. We are Christ-centered, welcoming to all, and mission-driven.

If you wish to join this congregation, please consult with the pastor after the service or by appointment in the church office or your home.

**OPENING** *Coming to order with song: Hymn #652 “This Is the Day”*

This is the day; this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made.  
Let us rejoice, let us rejoice, and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day; this is the day that the Lord has made.

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CENTERING WORDS**

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship with these words from Scripture:

Be bold before God, for Christ, the rejected one, has become the cornerstone of our faith. Through the Good Shepherd, you are found, comforted, and loved.

**PRELUDE** “Largo” G. Handel

**CALL TO WORSHIP** [*Please stand as you are able for the Call to Worship*]

The Lord is my shepherd, I will fear no darkness.

**We will love one another, as Christ loves us.**

Christ the Good Shepherd has compassion for all.

**We will love one another, as Christ loves us.**

Open your hearts to goodness and mercy today.

**We will love one another, as Christ loves us.**

Love, not merely in thought and word, but in truth and action.

**We will love one another, as Christ loves us.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**PRAISING GOD WITH SONG**

Hymn “We Have Come into His House”

1. We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Him. We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Him. We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Christ the Lord. Worship Him, Christ the Lord.

2. So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Him. So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Him.

So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Christ the Lord. Worship Him, Christ the Lord.

3. Let us lift up holy hands and magnify His name and worship Him. Let us lift up holy hands and magnify His name and worship Him. Let us lift up holy hands and magnify His name and worship Christ the Lord. Worship Him, Christ the Lord.

*[Note: Sunday School Children may be dismissed at this time for Sunday School.]*  
*[Please be seated.]*

### **CONFESSION**

Together, let us confess our sins before God.

**Good Shepherd, help us become your bold acolytes, lighting the way of your truth for all to see.**

**Help us choose honorable paths through green pastures and still waters amid the darkest valleys of our lives. For you are greater than our fears and you know how to bring us peace. As you laid down your life for us, may we strive to live for others. We choose you this day, for no other name under heaven inspires us to greater joy. Amen.**

You are welcome in the house of the Lord. The Good Shepherd beckons all to come and be restored. Rejoice in the knowledge that you are loved!

**Thanks be to God!**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Romans 15:22-16:16 Pastor William Mitchell

<sup>22</sup> This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you. <sup>23</sup> But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to visit you, <sup>24</sup> I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to see you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while. <sup>25</sup> Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the Lord's people there.

<sup>26</sup> For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord's people in Jerusalem. <sup>27</sup> They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings. <sup>28</sup> So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this contribution, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way. <sup>29</sup> I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ. <sup>30</sup> I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. <sup>31</sup> Pray that I may be kept safe from the unbelievers in Judea and that the contribution I take to Jerusalem may be favorably received by the Lord's people there, <sup>32</sup> so that I may come to you with joy, by God's will, and in your company be refreshed. <sup>33</sup> The God of peace be with you all. Amen.

**16** I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. <sup>2</sup> I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me. <sup>3</sup> Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. <sup>5</sup> Greet also the church that meets at their house. Greet my dear friend Epenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in the province of Asia. <sup>6</sup> Greet Mary, who worked very hard for you. <sup>7</sup> Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was. <sup>8</sup> Greet Ampliatus, my dear friend in the Lord. <sup>9</sup> Greet Urbanus, our co-worker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys. <sup>10</sup> Greet Apelles, whose fidelity to Christ has stood the test. Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus. <sup>11</sup> Greet Herodion, my fellow Jew. Greet those in the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, those women who work hard in the Lord. Greet my dear friend Persis, another woman who has worked very hard in the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a mother to me, too. <sup>14</sup> Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the other brothers and sisters with them. <sup>15</sup> Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas and all the Lord's people who are with them. <sup>16</sup> Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send greetings.

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Pastor William Mitchell

**SERMON** “Belief and Ethics then most of all People”      Pastor William Mitchell

## **PRAYER OF THE WORD**

Pastor William Mitchell

## **HYMN OF THE WORD** [*Please stand as you are able and sing*]

Hymn #440 “Jesus, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

1. Savior, like a Shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care; in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare: Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are; blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.
2. We are thine, do thou befriend us, be the guardian of our way; keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray: Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray; blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray.
3. Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be; thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free: Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to thee; blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to thee.
4. Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will; blessed Lord and only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill: Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still; blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

*Please be seated*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Preparation for Prayer**

**Sounding of the Singing Bowl**

**Hymn #493 “Cares Chorus”**

I cast all my cares upon you, I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.  
And anytime that I don't know what to do. I will cast all my cares upon you.

Call for Joys and Concerns

Pastor William Mitchell

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor William Mitchell

Lord's Prayer [unison]

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 forever. Amen.

### OFFERTORY

As the Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep, may we, too, strive to serve our neighbors with our offerings. I invite the ushers to come forward to receive our gifts.

*[Stand and sing as the offering is brought forward:]*

Hymn #34: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offertory Prayer [*Unison*]

O Good Shepherd, through the offering of these gifts, may we become a more open people . . .

open-minded in hearing your Word and wisdom,

open-hearted in healing a broken world,

open-handed in heeding your call for charity and enacted love.

With thanks for all good gifts, we present a portion of our substance and the whole of ourselves. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN [*Remain standing as able and celebrate, singing with our children as a church family.*]

Hymn #710 "The Trees of the Field"

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth before you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands. And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, [clap, clap] the trees of the field will clap their hands, [clap, clap] the trees of the field will clap their hands [clap, clap] while you go out with joy.

**BENEDICTION** Pastor William Mitchell

**POSTLUDE** "Finale from Water Music" G. Handel

*Please join us in the fellowship hall for fellowship time.*