

The Book of Revelation



Title: “Revelation” not “Revelations” Vs. 1:1 – *“The revelation of Jesus Christ”*

Author: “John, your brother.” Seems to need no introduction. Well known to the recipients. This suggests John the Apostle, the only disciple to live into old age.

Date: most likely written during persecution under Emperor Domitian (AD 81-96).

Type of Biblical Literature: *Apocalyptic* - common from 200 BC – 200 AD

- found in OT: Daniel, Isaiah 24-27, Ezekiel 38-39, Zechariah 9-14
- messages often received through wild dreams & visions
- the world is divided into two camps: good and evil, engaged in a long struggle.
- Apocalypses usually focus on the end times when good will triumph.

Good Shepherd, Take This Little Child 318

He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them. Mark 10:16

Unison

1. Good Shep-herd, take this lit-tle child in-to Your lov-ing
2. Good Shep-herd, we com-mit our-selves in-ev-'ry-thing we
3. Good Shep-herd, now we place this child in-to Your gen-tle

hands; And in the days that lie a-head pro- tect this lit-tle lamb.
do To be Your fam-ly here on earth and love this child for You.
trust; This pre-cious gift we give to You is one You've giv-en us.

Central Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Ministers: The Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Richard B. Knight

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. John A. Zachry

Director of Music/Organist: Tudor Bota

September 12, 2021

10:00 o'clock a.m.

*No matter who you are, or where you are on your spiritual journey . . .
You're welcome here!*

Prelude “We Are An Offering” Schrader

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Rich Knight

Call to Worship

* **Opening Hymn** “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” #2B

Opening Prayer (*seated*)

God of birth, God of joy, God of life, we come to You as a people hungry for good news. We have preoccupied ourselves with pleasures, and have overlooked the Joy You offer us. We have been so concerned with making a living, that we have missed the Life You set among us. Forgive us, gracious God. Open our eyes and our hearts to receive Your gift; open our lips and our hands to share it with all humanity, in the name of Jesus, our Savior, Amen.

* **Baptismal Hymn** “Good Shepherd, Take This Little Child”

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Noah Sorenson
son of Derek and Kaitlin

Chancel Choir Anthem “The Tallis Canon”

Morning Message “The One Among the Lampstands”

Series: “A Crazy Book for Crazy Times”

Communion Hymn “Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread” #398B

Sacrament of Holy Communion

We share communion together as a church family seated in the pews.

All are invited to God’s Table!

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer

Loving God, we thank you that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. In the name of him who taught us to pray:

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.

* Closing Hymn “God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing” #439B

Benediction and Threefold Amen #312B
“Ah-men, Ah-men, Ah-Ah-Ah-Ah-men.”

Postlude “Prelude in A” Bach

You may stay and enjoy the postlude, or you may feel free to leave quietly.

“R” stands for the red Pilgrim Hymnal.

“B” stands for the blue Chalice Hymnal.

* Those who are able please stand.

Revelation 1

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place; he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

² who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it; for the time is near.

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

⁹ I, John, your brother who share with you in Jesus the persecution and the kingdom and the patient endurance, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ I was in the spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹ saying, “Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

¹² Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. ¹⁴ His head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining with full force.

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades. ¹⁹ Now write what you have seen, what is, and what is to take place after this. ²⁰ As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.