



Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024 10:30 a.m.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Assurance" J. Bert Carlson

*CALL TO WORSHIP (1)

One: We gather together in the presence of our Shepherd God,

All: who calls us each by name,

One: who restores our souls,

All: who leads us in the way of righteousness,

One: and whose goodness and love never stop pursuing us.

All: This is the God we have come to worship!

*GATHERING HYMN: "God Is My Shepherd" #479 *New Century Hymnal* vv.1-3

God is my shepherd, I'll not want, I feed in pastures green.

God grants me rest and bids me drink from waters calm and clean.

Through daily tasks, I'm blessed and led by One I have not seen.

Restored to life each morning new, I rise up from the dust

To follow God whose presence gives me confidence and trust.

I praise the name of God today; in God I put my trust.

When I must pass through shadowed vale, where loss and death await,

I will not fear for God is there, my shepherd strong and great,

Whose rod and staff will comfort me and all my fears abate.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We profess, O God, that you are our Shepherd, and we shall not want.

We confess to you, O God, that you are often the Shepherd we do not want.

We want a coach who will help us succeed, not a shepherd who makes us rest.

We pretend we don't need a companion, even in the shadow of death.

We want you to help us defeat our enemies, not share a table with them.

We pursue happiness in the directions that we choose, and yet ...

Your goodness and mercy will always pursue us.

Forgive all of the ways we try to keep you from being our Shepherd.

**Help us to welcome your goodness and mercy, that your ways will be our ways,
and your faithful presence will be our dwelling place, now and forever.**

(silent confession)

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear this Good News: The Risen Christ, our Good Shepherd, defeated the shadows of death and leads us always in the paths of life.

Thanks be to God, the Shepherd of our souls. Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE "God Is My Shepherd" v.5

Goodness and mercy all my days will surely follow me;

And where God reigns in heaven and earth, my dwelling place will be.

My shepherd blesses, cares, and leads through all eternity

*PASSING THE PEACE

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM "The Lord Is My Shepherd" Allen Pote

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 23 (Common English Bible)

The LORD is my shepherd. I lack nothing. He lets me rest in grassy meadows; he leads me to restful waters; he keeps me alive. He guides me in proper paths for the sake of his good name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no danger because you are with me. Your rod and your staff—they protect me. You set a table for me right in front of my enemies. You bathe my head in oil; my cup is so full it spills over! Yes, goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the LORD's house as long as I live.

John 10:11-18

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

A Word of God that is still speaking,
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Disclosures for the Good Shepherd” Rev. Jody Clegg

SILENT MEDITATION

HYMN OF REFLECTION “My Shepherd Is the Living God” #247 *New Century Hymnal*

My shepherd is the living God, I therefore nothing need.

In pastures fair, near pleasant streams you settle me to feed.

You bring my wandering spirit back when I forsake your ways,

And lead me for your mercy’s sake in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death, your presence is my stay;

A word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.

Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;

My cup with blessings overflows, your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;

O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.

There would I find a settled rest, while others come and go—

No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

RESPONDING

We respond to God’s Word through our prayers and our gifts.

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY "The Lord Is My Shepherd" Harold DeCou
(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)

* RESPONSE OF PRAISE (tune: "Lasst Uns Erfreuen" *The Hymnal* #15)

Praise God, the Giver and the Gift,

Hearts, minds and voices now uplift, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise, praise the breath of glad surprise, Freeing, uplifting, opening eyes.

Three-In-Oneness, Love Communing, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (2)

*COMMISSIONING HYMN: "Lord of All Hopefulness" #765 *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*



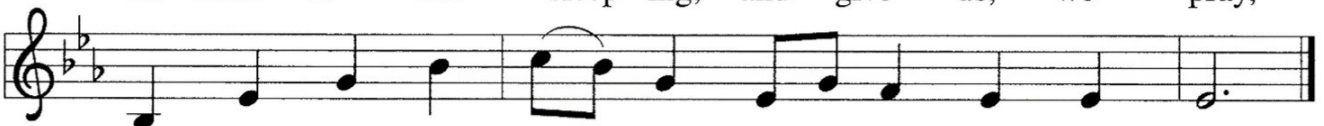
1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Trumpet Tune on the tune "Westminster Abbey" Jerry Westenkuehler

SENDING

With God's blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.

Thanks to God, we at Hope United Church of Christ have good news to share. And we should feel compelled to share it, because there are people in St. Louis who are looking for a progressive and loving faith community. When we share Hope, we make it easier for them to find us!

Worship Endnotes

- (1) Adapted from www.re-worship.blogspot.com
- (2) Adapted from Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1; Kimberly Bracken Long, editor.

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Worship Leaders April 21, 2024

Pastor: Rev. Jody Clegg

Organist: Jim Threlkeld

Liturgist: Alice Galt

Ushers: Members of the Special Events Ministry Team

YouTube: Andy Karcher

Tech team: Jim Richmann, Jack Jennings, Ron Geisel,
Kristine Wentzien, Kathleen Mees

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*Thanks for your contribution to the
ministries of Hope UCC!*