

Liturgy of the Word for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

9:30 am

Zion UCC, Lowden

BOLD PRINT = congregation

**Indicates those who are able, please stand*

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US!



RINGING OF THE BELL

OUR FAITH IN ACTION – ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS & CONCERNS

PRELUDE "In Christ Alone" by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jesus said, I am the gate,

whoever enters by Me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.

Jesus the Good Shepherd calls us by name to come and follow;

shows us the way to a life of service and care for others.

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

Believe in Me, and I will give you abundant life and joy.

***HYMN**

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

No. 471

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, calls each of us by name that we may follow him to a life of holiness.

We ask God now to forgive us.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Patient and loving God, we stand at the gate and peer through. We keep creating our own ways, believing that we know what is in our own best interest, and we ignore the voice of the one Shepherd who will guide us to peace and hope.

We wander aimlessly and then wonder why we get so lost. Help us stop and listen to the Shepherd's voice. Forgive us our stubbornness and unwillingness to trust in You. Let us place our trust in the Shepherd who has never failed us, who loves and guides our lives.

For we ask this in Christ's Name. AMEN.

Silent Prayers of Reconciliation

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

(©2003 Nathan Nettleton)

Jesus is the good shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. Though we have fallen short of His commandments, He forgives us all our sins, directs us back to the flock, snatches us from the wolf. Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Amen!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

And also with you!

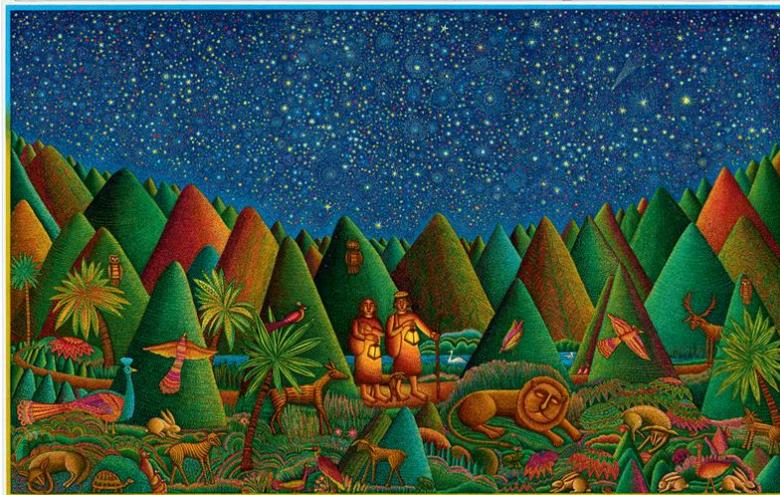
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

(Please greet one another with these or similar words)

WELCOME THE CHILDREN

Children are excused to go to Christian Education classes.



FIRST READING

Psalm 23

Leader: "PLEASE RESPOND WITH THE WORDS:

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

beside restful waters he leads me;

he refreshes my soul.

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake.

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff— they comfort me.*

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

*You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.*

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.*

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

EPISTLE (*Letter to the Church*)

1 John 3:16-24

Contemporary English Version (CEV)

GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

Contemporary English Version (CEV)

¹¹ I am the good shepherd, and the good shepherd gives up his life for his sheep. ¹² Hired workers are not like the shepherd. They don't own the sheep, and when they see a wolf coming, they run off and leave the sheep. Then the wolf attacks and scatters the flock.

¹³ Hired workers run away because they don't care about the sheep.

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and they know me. ¹⁵ Just as God knows me, I know God, and I give up my life for my sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not in this sheep pen. I must bring them together too, when they hear my voice. Then there will be one flock of sheep and one shepherd.

¹⁷ God loves me, because I give up my life, so that I may receive it back again. ¹⁸ No one takes my life from me. I give it up willingly! I have the power to give it up and the power to receive it back again, just as God commanded me to do.

WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

Green Pastures

The Good Shepherd

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The United Church of Canada General Council 1968, alt. 1998

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

*HYMN

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

NCH 252

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Gracious and Forgiving God, we thank you that when we wander -you seek us;
that when we stumble and fall - you lift us up ; and that when we falter or
begin to get lost - you call us by name. Help us dear Lord to remain close
by you - to keep your presence before our eyes and to hold your word in
within our heart... Lord hear our prayer....*

*Loving God and Giving God - you provide all that we need and protect us
from all that seeks to destroy us. We know that we are safe in your care.
We find rest in you. We renew our strength in you. We thank you, and we
pray to you now, at this time, for others who need you... Lord hear our
prayer....*

We pray, O God,

*- for those who are in authority and who are elected to positions of power
we ask your wisdom,*

*- for those who lead either by right of birth or personality or office
we ask a heart of love and acceptance*

*- and for those who have suffered for so long and who now face the awesome
responsibility that comes with freedom we ask a justice that is full of
mercy....*

Lord - hear our prayer....

*We also hold before you this day those we have named before you in our time
of sharing...*

Lord hear our prayer....

Grant unto these we have named, and to all your church - new life in the name of Christ. Make us a peaceful and a joyful people who live the love we have received from your hands - we ask it through Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Amen

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Generosity is one of the signs of God's abiding love. God's grace overflows, God's table is designed to welcome all in safety and peace. Let us offer our gifts to God in gratitude, heartfelt commitment, and praise.

*We are so thankful for the generous gifts of our members and friends!
If you are able, we hope that you will choose to support the work of Zion United Church of Christ with your financial gifts. If you would like to contribute online right now, please go to our website, www.zionucclowden.org, and click on the donate button.*

OFFERTORY

Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

*DOXOLOGY

Tune: Hymn to Joy

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Savior Who has won the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of Love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia! To the triune majesty.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Jesus, Good Shepherd, we thank you for the ways in which you have enfolded us in your love and called us by name to follow you. May these gifts and our lives offered in your name, be used to enfold others in your love. Amen

*HYMN

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

(NCH #76)

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

*BENEDICTION

May Jesus, the true shepherd, lead you to pastures of peace.

AMEN.

May you hear his voice whenever he calls your name.

AMEN.

May the Good Shepherd guide you in all your ways.

AMEN.

Alleluia! Christ has risen!

Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

Thanks be to God. ALLELUIA!

*SUNG RESPONSE

The Lord Bless and Keep You

Jim Strathdee

The Lord bless and keep you,

The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious, gracious.

The Lord bless and keep you,

The Lord lift His countenance on you and give peace, give you peace.

Shalom. Shalom.

*POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in D

by David N. Johnson

Thank you to our Worship Leaders

Acolytes

Senior High Fellowship

Organist

Carter Horman

Liturgists

Kelly Proesch, Koby Stewart

Videographer

Senior High Fellowship

Power Point

Leighton Tjaden

Ushers

Senior High Fellowship

Council Ushers

David Niermeyer, Jon Mansfield

Ministers

All believers

Pastor

Rev. Susan Schneider-Adams

Songs and Scriptures for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

*HYMN

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

No. 471

What a *covenant, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

*HYMN

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

NCH 252

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need your tender care;
in your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your folds prepare.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us, yours we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us, yours we are.

We are yours, in love befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray.

Let us always seek your favor;
let us always do your will;
Jesus Christ, our only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.



CLOSE OF WORSHIP

76

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Omer Westendorf, 1964

Descant

2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

Unison

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave. The ser - vice is
tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the fruits of our wor - ship in
shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

Omer Westendorf, author of numerous hymns, compiler of several hymnals, and founder of World Library Publications, included this hymn in *People's Mass Book*, 1964, the first vernacular Roman Catholic hymn and service book to implement the decrees of Vatican II.

Tune: THE ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11.D.
Welsh folk melody
Harm. Leland Sateren, 1972
Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993

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beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.*

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*He guides me in right paths for his name's sake.
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I fear no evil; for you are with me;
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*You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
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The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.*

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

1 John 3:16-24 The Message (MSG)

This is how we've come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow believers, and not just be out for ourselves. If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you made it disappear.

My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in God's reality. It's also the way to shut down debilitating self-criticism, even when there is something to it. For God is greater than our worried hearts and knows more about us than we do ourselves.

And friends, once that's taken care of and we're no longer accusing or condemning ourselves, we're bold and free before God! We're able to stretch our hands out and receive what we asked for because we're doing what he said, doing what pleases him. Again, this is God's command: to believe in his personally named Son, Jesus Christ. He told us to love each other, in line with the original command. As we keep his commands, we live deeply and surely in him, and he lives in us. And this is how we experience his deep and abiding presence in us: by the Spirit he gave us.

GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

Contemporary English Version (CEV)

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GOSPEL **Luke 24:33-48**

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"

They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.