

April 25, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Easter 10:30 AM

**Those who are able, please stand*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

We are pleased that you are worshipping with us today. We hope the service will be a blessing to you. This is the Fourth Sunday of Easter. It is also Earth Day. Today we focus on things that we need to touch in order to believe.

MUSICAL PRELUDE: “A Song of Faith” Pianist Mavis Baldwin

The Flowers on the Altar are in Memory of Marina Smith given by Penna Smith

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (In Unison)

Jesus said, “I came that you may have life, and have it abundantly.” Even though we have wandered and have become lost, the shepherd calls to us. We can place our trust in his loving care. For we are the sheep of his pasture, blessed and given hope. Just when we think we can go no further, Jesus the Good Shepard, call to us, brining us safely back into the fold of Grace and Mercy. This is when we know we are loved completely and forgiven. Amen

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus the Good Shepherd calls our names to come and follow him.

People: We need to hear the word of hope from God.

Leader: Thanks be to God who has heard our cries, healed our wounds, and restored our lives.

People: His voice, speaking our names, draws us to him.

Leader: We follow without fear, for the shepherd cares for us.

People: Our hearts rejoice and we can place our trust in the Good Shepherd.

Leader: It is Christ who brings us out to green pastures and restores our souls.

People: It is Christ who gives us hope and peace. Praise be to Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

GATHERING SONG “I need Thee Every Hour” UMH 397

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (In Unison)

Shepherding God, you know how easy it is for us to stray. We wander off so easily these days. Remind us again that you lead us in gentle paths and by quiet waters. Bring us into your fold. Lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Help us see the way we should go, the way we should live. Help us hear

your voice calling our name. Be with us in our needs this day as we stand at your gates as you call our names. Bring us safely on the journey we are on and strengthen us so that we may be all that you intend us to be. Amen

Time with God’s Children:

SHARING OUR JOYS & CONCERNS (Prayer request forms are available at the back of the sanctuary)

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE Amen, Amen, Amen

GIVING OF OURSELVES & OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “I Believe” Chancel Choir

DOXOLOGY “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 95

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGING

Thank You Lord, for all the wonderful gifts with which you have blessed our lives. Take these gifts, these tokens and use them to build your realm, to heal the broken hearted, bind up those who are wounded, welcome the stranger, become the gate of hope. Give us the depth of faith and hope that we may offer your love and hope to others, for it is in the name of the Risen Christ that we pray and offer our gifts to You and our Church, our Community and our World. AMEN.

SONG OF COMMITMENT “The Gift of Love” UMH 408

Psalter Reading: Psalm 23 UMH 754

