



"Sun" by Edvard Munch, 1863-1944.

Christ Church **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Rev. Dan Stark, Pastor
Organist and Pianist, Matt Lawrenz
Pam Kothrade, Musician
Nancy Charles, Song Leader

www.uccmke.org
www.facebook.com/groups/christchurchucc

April 24th, 2021

On this fourth Sunday of Easter, also known as “Good Shepherd Sunday,” we, like the disciples after Jesus’ resurrection, might find ourselves feeling a bit lost like sheep without a shepherd. There’s an awful lot happening in our world right now that might make us wander away from God’s desire for abundant life for all people. This week’s Old Testament reading from Psalm 23 reminds us that the Good Shepherd abides with us even in the darkest places in our lives and provides for all of us. Our Gospel lesson from John tells us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who has come that we might have life and live it abundantly. In this week’s installment of our sermon series, *Resurrection Every Day*, we consider the image of Jesus the Shepherd among the reality that we are a people who really like to wander. We wander from God’s ways of justice, peace, and love. *Shepherd us, O Lord!*

Candle Lighting Ritual

Today we light three candles on the altar in recognition of national events and God’s Shalom.

The first candle is lit in memory of George Floyd, who was killed by former Officer Derek Chauvin on May 25, 2020 in footage witnessed around the world. We pray for justice and healing for his friends, family, and everyone affected by his death.

The second candle is lit in memory of former Officer Chauvin, who was convicted of Mr. Floyd’s murder on April 20, 2021. We pray for him, his family, and all affected by his actions. May they find peace and healing.

The third candle is in remembrance of God’s Shalom. Shalom is the order that God set into motion in the creation – that all things would be in balance, at peace, and whole. Again, and again, we say, do, and struggle to maintain God’s created order. When we do, people get hurt and the world aches. Today we remember God’s Shalom and pray for guidance from the Good Shepherd to reign us in when we stray from God’s order.

Prelude

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Willan

Words of Welcome

Opening Song

Now the Green Blade Rises

Refrain: love is come again like wheat arising green.

- 1. Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; love lives again that with the dead has been; Refrain.**
- 2. In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain, thinking that he would never wake a gain, laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen; Refrain.**
- 3. Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, he that for three days in the grave had lain; raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen; Refrain.**
- 4. When our hearts are wintery, grieving, or in pain, your touch can call us back to life again, fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been; Refrain.**

Call to Worship

UCC Worship Ways, adapted

One: The poet tells us: "The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want."

All: We hear the Psalmist's contentment and wonder about our own.

One: Settled on the ground, with grass tickling their toes,
the psalmist rests, "God makes me lie down in green pastures.
God leads me beside still waters. God restores my soul."

All: We hear their deep need for rest and wonder about our own.

One: With a deep sigh, the psalmist declares, "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me. You prepare a table before me. You anoint me. My cup overflows.

We recognize their bold courage and wonder about our own.

One: Remembering God's faithfulness, the psalmist finds words to carry with them, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long."

All: We hear their faithful trust and wonder about our own.

One: Holy Spirit of Rest and Renewal, in this time of worship inspire us with words both ancient and new so that we may find the words that connect us to You.

All: Amen and amen.

Opening Prayer

One: O Jesus, you are our shepherd. We shall never lack.

Even when we don't want to, you make us lie down in green pastures.

When we refuse to drink, you lead us beside the still waters and cup water in your hands.

When we lose our souls - you restore them and you never give up on us.

You guide us in the paths of righteousness for more than your name's sake - but also your love's sake. Even though we may walk through the darkest places imaginable - in our hearts and in reality - we fear no evil, for you, Christ, comfort us.

You prepare tables for us in the people we love and hate, the people who would die for and the people we don't want anything to do with - and you tell us to love them as you love us. You have anointed us with the oil of salvation; our cup runs over!

Surely, your goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives, no matter where we go or who we become, and we will dwell in the house of our Holy Savior forever and ever. Amen.

The Gloria Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines On Me

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines o me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

**As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen

World without end, without end. Amen.

**As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

Music and Words: Paul M. Vasile

Old Testament

Psalm 23

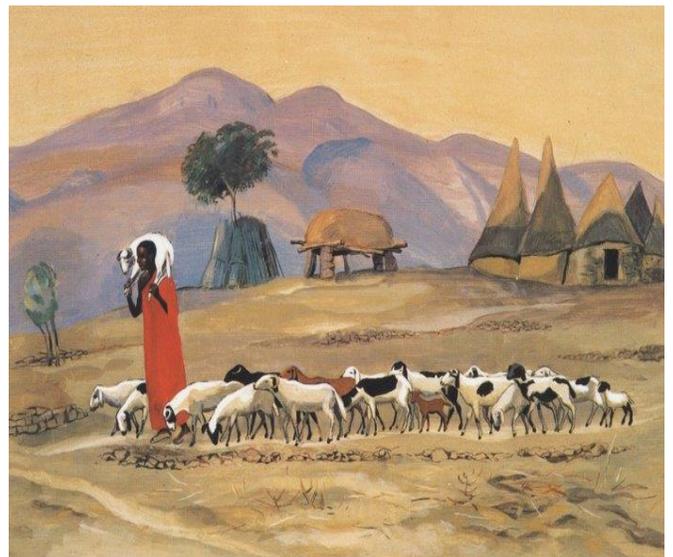
The book of Psalms contains the prayers, hymns, and meditations of Israel. Psalm 23 is an ancient song of comfort and thanksgiving. It depicts God, the Lord, as a faithful shepherd and protector of God's sheep. The psalm is often attributed to King David. The psalmist sings about how God will guide them – even in the valley of the shadow of death – protecting, leading, and walking with them in the darkest place imaginable. The psalm ends with the confident statement that God's blessings and mercy are always with us.

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy¹ shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

The Gospel

John 10:1-10

John's Gospel identifies Christ as the Messiah, sent by God, to deliver the people of Israel. In Jesus' teaching and preaching in John, he identifies himself as the bread of life, the light of the world, and the good shepherd. John 10 speaks of Jesus being the gate for the sheep. A thief enters the sheepfold by stealth, but the shepherd enters by the gate. The sheep do not listen to the thief, and those who claimed to be the Messiah before Jesus were "thieves and bandits." Jesus states that only those who enter by the gate will be saved. He came that the world might have abundant life.



“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Sermon

Resurrection Every Day: Shepherd Us In

Rev. Dan Stark

Sermon Song

His Battle Ended There

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia; Alleluia, alleluia.

- 1. His battle ended there, death was overcome. Jesus, alive again, wore the Victor’s crown. Clearly sin had failed, goodness had prevailed, Refrain.**
- 2. Dread powers of death and sin had him in their hold. When Jesus rose again all their plans were foiled. Jesus lived again, triumphed over sin, Refrain.**
- 3. Dead in the grave he lay, mourned by every friend. Those dark and fearful days then did reach their end. God raised him to life, victor in the strife, Refrain.**
- 4. He burst the chains of sin, opened death’s dark jail. God filled him with new life, life that could not fail. Right before eyes Jesus did arise, Refrain.**
- 5. Lord, by the pains you bore in your darkest hour, free us from fear of death, and from all sin’s power. May we with you live to you ourselves give, Refrain.**

Prayers of the People

Hear Our Prayers, O God...

For health & healing: *God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Ps. 147:3*

We pray for:

~Betty B who is healing from injuries from a recent fall. She has returned to her residence and is receiving 24hour nursing care.

~Ken and Susie K. as Ken recovers from recent surgery. Thankfully, it went well.

~Katie, a young mom who is in ICU at St. Francis Hospital after going into septic shock due to covid-19. Katie is a type 1 diabetic which complicates the situation.

From Andy Oren.

~Dean M. as he deals with a ruptured Achilles tendon.

~Nick, nephew of Nancy & Brad who has been using heroin again for about 6 months.

~Ian, that continued chemo and upcoming radiation will continue to work as hoped and side effects can remain minimal.

~Continued prayers for David Rothe, friend of John Helt who is rehabbing after a serious infection.

~Kim and her husband, friends of Mary Ann M. who is now back home and is still not able to eat (has a gastric feeding tube), very weak and unable to walk without assistance but very happy to be home. Her husband is assisting with all her care in addition to PT, OT and speech therapy.

~Rick, Uncle of Laura P who recently had a "routine" heart procedure that did not go well and is now in critical condition. Prayers for the whole family.

~Prayers for strength, understanding and healing for Jack and his family as the bone marrow transplant has been postponed.

He will go through another round of induction chemo. Dick and Joan Gaeth

~Continued prayers Bob, cousin of Barb W, who has COVID. He is no longer sedated and finally is off the ventilator. He has a tremendous amount of healing and therapy ahead.

~Judy, niece of Ken K as she is on chemo for breast cancer.

~Kathy, Ken's sister who was moved to a nursing home and has a serious chronic infection and vascular dementia.

~Susie K's Aunt Evelyn who is in hospice and Aunt Eleanore who had a stroke and is in home hospice, also for her daughters and granddaughters who are taking care of her.

~Dan, friend of Molly as he and his young family navigate his illness.

~Johnny, friend of the Ken and Sue who has COVID and other health problems.

~Joe and Laurie, son in law and daughter of Jackie S as they navigate Joe's medical issues.

~Dawn & Brad D, daughter in-law and son of Laurel as she manages diabetes and dialysis 4 times per week for her kidneys and Brad as he heals from a broken arm that required several surgeries.

~Tracy, daughter of Nancy K, who is at home with Nancy awaiting a liver transplant.

~Continued prayers for Julene F's nephew, who is struggling with mental health issues.

~Bernee, friend of Nancy K who has end-stage lung cancer and is in a nursing home in hospice.

Community

~" Health in my body, mind & spirit". From our outdoor prayer box.

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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Song

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

**Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!**

Call to Offering

Worship Ways

Like a shepherd tending to those in their care, God has offered us rest and renewal, protection and mercy, love and nourishment. In response, we are invited to give a portion of our time, energy, gifts, and prayers so that others in this world may experience the same. Please give as you are able at the link to follow: www.uccmke.org/donate

Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, bless these gifts and all the ways in which we give. May each of our gifts be a part of co-creating and tending to the love, safety, belonging, and dignity You envision for the world. **Amen.**

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
A-men.**

Closing Song

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

- 1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!**
- 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia! Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!**
- 3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! Our salvation have procured: Alleluia! Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!**

**4. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as his love: Alleluia!
Praise him all ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!**

Sending

Go, in the name of the Creator whose order for this world was called "good" and "very good."

Go, in the name of the Good Shepherd who calls us home with open arms.

Go, in the name of the Spirit, whose white-hot fire of love and passion outweighs the anger or sadness we feel in this moment.

Amen and Amen!

Postlude

Festive Scherzo

Archer

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Some Prayers and Liturgies by UCC Worship Ways

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Thanks!

"Thank You to the members of Christ Church UCC, Milwaukee for your 2020 contribution of \$229.51 for Basic Support of Our Church's Wider Mission Changing Lives!"

Franz Riegert Conference Minister

John C. Dorhauer General Minister and President of UCC

Happy Birthday to these wonderful people!

Melissa Franco April 25

Sue Steinhauer April 25

Dean Kothrade April 27

Isabella Wick Moreira April 27

Eric Bingheim April 29

Tom Albertin May 1

Joan Gaeth May 1

Announcements

JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION!!! IN-PERSON CHURCH IS OPEN!!!

BEGINNING: JUNE 6, 2021

DI SOS donations needed

Please help by donating the following for our Friday night meal distribution:

*Prewrapped plastic knife, fork, and napkin (please tie or tape shut)

*Fruit Breakfast/granola Bars (any flavors)

Volunteers Needed

Friday night volunteers for SOS DI meal distribution at Christ Church.

It would be helpful if we could get 2 more sets of Building Reps so that volunteers will repeat about every 6-8 weeks. Just 1.5 hours on a Friday evening starting at 4:45pm. Please contact Jim Wick for information and/or to sign up. Thanks.

BVCC Food Pantry Donation Requests

This week's most urgent needs are:

***Pastas & Sauces, Mac & Cheese, Individually packaged snacks, 4 pk. & single packs of Toilet paper, Laundry detergent, Dish soap, Shampoo & conditioner and/or monetary donations.**

Donations can be dropped off at the BVCC at 1320 E. Oklahoma Ave. Tuesdays-Saturdays 9:30am-12:30pm.

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If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email pastor@uccmke.org.
Christ Church UCC, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

We are currently worshipping online-only until June 6th.

You can make your offering to Christ Church at www.uccmke.org/donate or by mailing a check to Christ Church, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207

