

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Le Sueur, Minnesota
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 21, 2024

9:00 AM

The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace.
Mahatma Ghandi

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING REFLECTION

Psalm 23

Shift Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP

When we are scattered, Jesus our Good Shepherd gathers us in.

When we are lost and lonely, we can depend on Christ's love.

When we are oppressed, Jesus our Good Shepherd cares for us.

When we are threatened because of who we are, we can depend on Christ's protection.

We know Christ, because Christ's tenderness has guided us for generations.

Christ knows us by name. Christ will lay down his very life for our sake.

Let us worship our Good Shepherd, who cares for all of us with fierce love.

Let us give thanks for Christ's presence with us.

HYMN OF PRAISE

My Shepherd is the Living God

NCH #247

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

United Church of Christ

Shepherding Christ, even as you lay down your life for us, we confess our unwillingness to support those in need. Too often, we may be more like the one who runs away in times of trouble. We aren't always bold enough to protect the powerless; following your example is rarely easy or comfortable. Forgive us. Help us lay down our apathy and follow your example. Remind us that we belong to one another, and to you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

United Church of Christ

Beloved of God, receive this comfort. It is impossible to respond to every need in this complicated world. A full life of faith gives us the grace to lay down our work, take the rest we need, then refocus our energy toward the cause of the oppressed. Rest in the shelter of your Good Shepherd, knowing you can take up the cause again with restored souls.

We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

GLORIA PATRI

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE LORD'S PRAYER
THREE-FOLD AMEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23

Reader: Cindy Braun

May God add a blessing to the reading and hearing of the word.

Amen.

GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"The Good Shepherd and Those Who Follow"

Pastor Broeder

HYMN

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

Insert

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

RESPONSE

TUNE: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia. Alleluia!

Praise God above, you heav'nly host.

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, thank you for your gift of Jesus Christ, who cares for us and protects us. With these gifts we return to you, help us care for others in our communities and around the world. Amen.

+HYMN

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

NCH 252

+BENEDICTION

+RESPONSE

May the Lord Be Always With You

+POSTLUDE
