

Order of Worship for April 25, 2021 – 4th Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday

Watch the livestream at 10:00 am here <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-aWw0Tc165vh6Epdr- XBxw>

WE APPROACH OUR GRACIOUS GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

~ you are invited to use the chat box on YouTube to share words of Peace with each other

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

In this Season of new growth, new life, new hope,

We light a candle to remind us of the Light which could not be put out, the light that shines from the Empty Tomb.

Let us centre ourselves for worship....

CALL TO WORSHIP/OPENING PRAYER

Listen! Do you hear the Voice?

A Voice that is familiar. A Voice calling us out. A Voice that we trust.

We hear the Voice. We know the Voice. And so we come.

Trusting that we will be led to green pastures and clear waters.

Trusting that the Voice will stay with us to comfort and protect.

Shepherding God, always beside us,

lead us, we pray, in paths of righteousness.

Guide us on the daily journeys of life.

And when the way grows dark,

protect us with your rod and staff, help us find the path back into the light.

In our time of worship this morning,

remind us also that we can trust in the Good Shepherd who leads us.

Remind us also that we, who have been led by the shepherd, are also called to lead others.

May this time of song and prayer and reflection empower and embolden us,

as we go out to feed and tend those of your flock who share our lives. Amen.

Gathering Hymn VU 747 Psalm 23 (PD)

WE SHARE AS GOD'S CHILDREN THE BIBLE'S STORY IN WORD AND IN SONG:

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

PRAYER FOR AND ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God you ask us to be sheep, following the Good Shepherd.

You also commission us to be shepherds, caring for your sheep.

Both of those can be hard to do.

Sometimes we want to head off in our headstrong way, not following the Shepherd.

Sometimes we forget our duty of care for our neighbours.

Still you are there. Trying to herd us. Hoping we will care for our siblings, your beloved children.

We seek your grace and mercy, we seek your strength and wisdom.

Help us to be better sheep, and to be better shepherds.

...time of silent prayer...

In grace God cares for and loves us as a shepherd loves the sheep. God calls out our own caring and loving impulses so that we could care for our neighbours. Even when we forget, even when we choose otherwise, God knows we can do better and gives us the chance to do just that. We are forgiven. We are loved.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

A MOMENT OF REFLECTION

~ trusting that God is at work in our midst we allow the words we have heard to settle and stir in our souls

SERMON *Shepherd Love*

Hymn MV 126 Are You a Shepherd? (1L)

WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD AND PREPARE FOR MINISTRY IN THE WORLD

THE OFFERING

Mission Minute *When Being Born with Light Skin Is Dangerous*

<https://united-church.ca/stories/when-being-born-light-skin-dangerous>

The Invitation:

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymn VU 427 To Show By Touch and Word (1L)

COMMISSIONING:

As children of God,

we go out into the world where we live and serve.

As an Easter people,

we go out to share the promise and hope of New Life in abundance

As those who trust the Good Shepherd,

we go out assured that the rod and the staff will comfort us.

Surely goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives...

and we dwell in God's presence forever.

SUNG BENEDICTION: Let Our Earth Be Peaceful (1L)

POSTLUDE