



CHURCH OF THE  
**GOOD SHEPHERD**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**04/21/24**

**11:00am**



*No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

*April 21, 2024*

**Worship Leader: Judith Newby**

**WELCOME**.....

**HYMN #479 God Is My Shepherd 1,2,4**

**1** God is my shepherd, I'll not want,  
I feed in pastures green.

God grants me rest and bids me drink  
from waters calm and clean.

Through daily tasks, I'm blessed and led  
by One I have not seen.

**2** Restored to life each morning new,  
I rise up from the dust

To follow God whose presence gives  
me confidence and trust.

I praise the name of God today;  
in God I put my trust.

**4** No enemy can overcome,  
No power on earth defeat

The ones anointed by God's grace  
and fed with manna sweet.

My cup is filled and overflows  
As I my Savior greet.

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# **OPENING REFLECTION.....**

“Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us” (Beth Purvis and Linda Gilmour from 2020 recording)

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/w3n32b7hsjzk4qku8zj66/Savior-Like-a-Shepherd-1.mp4?rlkey=loi64xtdpwobkp40v21gdovwy&st=d9ko7xm5&dl=0>

# **JOYS AND CONCERNS.....**

# **PRAYER.....**

# **SCRIPTURE.....**

**Judith Newby**

## **Psalm 23**

**23** The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

**2** He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

**3** He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name’s sake.

**4** Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

For You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

**5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

**6** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
Forever.

**John 3:16-19, New International Version**

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 19 This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in God's presence.

**A TIME FOR ALL AGES**.....

**HYMN #247 My Shepherd Is My Living God**

1 My shepherd is the living God,  
I therefore nothing need;  
In pastures fair, near pleasant streams  
you settle me to feed.

You bring my wandering spirit back  
when I forsake your ways,  
And lead me for your mercy's sake  
in paths of truth and grace.

2 When I walk through the shades of death,  
your presence is my stay;  
A word of your supporting breath  
drives all my fears away.

Your hand, in sight of all my foes,  
does still my table spread;

My cup with blessings overflows,  
your oil anoints my head.

**3** The sure provisions of my God  
attend me all my days;

O may your house be my abode,  
and all my work be praise.

There would I find a settled rest,  
while others come and go -

No more a stranger or a guest,  
but like a child at home.

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**SERMON**.....

**PASTORAL PRAYER**.....

**PRAYER OF JESUS**

Our Father, Our Mother,

Who is in Heaven, Holy be Your name,

Your Kin(g)dom come, Your 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 do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from evil,

For yours is the Kin(g)dom and the

Power and the glory,  
Now and forever, Amen.

**SHARING OUR GIFTS**.....

**OFFERTORY**.....

“For Good” from the Broadway music Wicked by Stephen Schwartz  
David Red and Axel Catterall, duet

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**DOXOLOGY**.....

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God the source of all our gifts.  
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts.  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**.....

**CLOSING HYMN** “They’ll Know We Are Christians by our Love”

1 We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;  
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

**Chorus: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**2** We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

**Chorus**

**3** We Will work with each other, we will work side by side;  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;  
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.

**Chorus**

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**LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY**.....

**BENEDICTION**.....

**CLOSING CELEBRATION**.....

Rejoice the Lord is King - Dick Goins, organ

Thank you for joining us in worship today

# Welcome!



***We are delighted to have you worshipping with us today!***

Church of the Good Shepherd, UCC is a dynamic congregation with a rich history and an exciting ministry in the community.

Our church is a part of a blend of four major Protestant denominations that united together in 1957 to form the United Church of Christ.

We claim the early Pilgrim and Puritan settlers of this country as part of our heritage, and celebrate the words of Pastor John Robinson, who in his farewell remarks to the Pilgrims as they were leaving for the “new world,” said,

***“There is still more light and truth to break forth from God’s holy word.”***

We are a church that:

- Takes the Bible seriously, but not literally.
- Worships God with joyful hearts and open minds.
- Includes children in the life and ministry of the church.
- Celebrates creativity and the arts.
- Seeks to be inclusive of ALL people.
- Believes that growth in wisdom and understanding happens at all stages of life.
- Is committed to work for justice for all people and for the environment.
- Cares for one another, laughs easily, and rests in God’s love.
- Looks to Jesus as teacher, prophet and Child of God.

## Vision Statement

**Church of the Good Shepherd desires to be an inclusive community that shares Divine love as a path to peace and justice in the world.**

## Mission Statement

**The mission of Church of the Good Shepherd is to build a just world through community one life at a time.**

***An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ***

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