

APRIL 25th, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):

Pastor: The Lord is our shepherd. We shall not lack for anything.

People: God readies green pastures so we can rest and graze. The Lord leads us to serene ponds that provide refreshing water to drink.

Pastor: We do not have to fear when we walk through shadowy valleys, because God will always be with us.

People: Our troubles and fears are soothed when we remember that our protection comes from the Lord. God's goodness and mercy will always follow us, even when death touches us.

Pastor: What a blessing it is to know that the Lord is always here to care for us, His beloved sheep. Let us worship the Lord.

HYMN #87 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

We confess that sometimes we are more trouble to you than we are worth, Shepherd-God. We, the sheep of your fold, are always straying, getting lost and tangling ourselves up in the briar patches of life. But you never fail to look for us, and you do not stop until you find us and bring us home. When we are hungry, you feed us. When we are lonely, you smile and call us by name. When the wolf threatens, you come and stand between it and us. And even when death is at our door, you are there to help us walk through it. Perhaps we are more trouble to you than we are worth, Shepherd-God, but that is why we are so grateful that you love us enough to still be our Savior. Come to us now, we pray, and receive our worship, thanks and praise for all you do for us, even though we do so little for you. We ask these things in the name of Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray this way, saying

#PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (Unison)

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, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison):

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 23 and John 10:11-18

SERMON MESSAGE: *The Beloved Sheep* Rev. Gagnon

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Prayer Requests
Silent Prayer
Pastoral Prayer

BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Gracious God, thank you for showering us every day with undeserved, unearned blessings that are too numerous to count. You are the only one whose presence can truly relieve our anxiety, satisfy our spiritual hunger, and comfort us in our sorrow. Now we give you our offerings, along with our hearts, our minds and our hands, to assist you in drawing into your fold those who yearn to know about your goodness and mercy. Bless what we have given and empower the ministry we do for others in the name of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for his dearly loved sheep. Amen.

HYMN #429 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* (vs. 1, 2 and 4)

BENEDICTION (Responsive):

Pastor: God our Shepherd can be trusted to lead and guide us. Let us look to the Lord for the strength we need in life.

People: We give thanks that wherever we go and whatever we do, God's goodness and mercy will always be with us.

Pastor: It is a blessing to be the beloved sheep of God's pasture. The Lord wants us to help our neighbors experience the Good Shepherd's benevolent care, as well.

Pastor: May our actions make the Lord known to others so that they can come to know, through our acts of ministry, how much God cares about them.

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL