

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY
WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER • COLUMBIA, MARYLAND
UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

April 30, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE

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Liturgist: John Telis

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WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

GTG #187

Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
much we need your tender care.

In your pleasant pastures feed us;
for our use your fold prepare.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us: we are yours.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us: we are yours.

We are yours: in love befriend us;
be the guardian of our way.
Keep your flock: from sin defend us;
seek us when we go astray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray.

You have promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse, and power to free.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.

Early let us seek your favor;
early let us do your will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us; love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us; love us still.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Can you hear the voice of God?

We hear God calling us by name.

Are you troubled or distressed?

We come here to find a place to rest for awhile.

Come and find a guide who knows these lands.

**We come to praise our Shepherding God,
whose pathways and doors lead to life.**

OPENING PRAYER

Shepherding God, bring us into your fold. Lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Help us see the way we should go, the way we should live. Help us hear your voice calling our name. Enliven this time of worship, that we may find true life as we join with others: praising your name, celebrating your great goodness, and sharing your love for all people. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 2:19 – 25

ANTHEM

“Psalm of Comfort”
(*Benjamin Harlan*)

SJU Chancel Choir

Because the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want
He maketh me to lie down in pastures green
He leads me beside still waters, He restoreth my soul
And He leads me in righteousness for His name's sake

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
Yet I will fear no evil: for thou art with me
Thy rod and staff they comfort me

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever

SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:1 – 10

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Celebration of John Telis’
God and Family Award

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

MESSAGE

“**SHEPHERD AND GUARDIAN OF THE SOUL**”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

OFFERTORY SONG OF REFLECTION

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

TFWS #2214

Refrain:

*Lead me, guide me along the way
For if you lead me, I cannot stray
Lord, let me walk each day with thee
Lead me, O Lord, lead me*

I am weak and I need thy strength and power
To help me over my weakest hour
Help me through the darkness thy face to see
Lead me, O Lord, lead me

Refrain

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress
I am putting all my trust in thee
Lead me, O Lord, lead me
Refrain

I am lost if you take you hand from me
I am blind without thy light to see
Lord, just always let me thy servant be
Lead me, O Lord, lead me
Refrain

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Generous, life-giving God, you sent Jesus that we might have life and have it abundantly. In response to this great gift, we now offer ourselves and our resources. May these gifts help us as a church to be your voice, calling all people to abundant life and to their true identities as your beloved. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

GTG #54

God be with you till we meet again
Loving counsels guide, uphold you
With a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again

God be with you till we meet again
Unseen wings protecting hide you
Daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again

God be with you till we meet again
When life's perils thick confound you
Put unfailing arms around you
God be with you till we meet again

God be with you till we meet again
Keep love's banner floating o'er you
Smite death's threatening wave before you
God be with you till we meet again

BENEDICTION

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, October 2022. Adapted by Rev. Kanahan)

Remember this: The Shepherd and Guardian of our souls came near to our suffering and calls us to do the same. As you leave this place, how will you be a healing companion with your neighbors who are suffering, isolated, and struggling? May you go in peace to bring peace to all you meet. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer
accompanist

Readings are NRSV unless otherwise noted. CEB=Common English Bible; CEV=Contemporary English Version; KJV=King James Version; MSG=The Message; NIV=New International Version; NLT=New Living Translation; TIB=The Inclusive Bible

1 Peter 2:19 – 25

2:19 For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly.

2:20 If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval.

2:21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

2:22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

2:23 When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

2:25 For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

John 10:1 – 10

10:1 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.

10:2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

10:3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

10:4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

10:5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers."

10:6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

10:7 So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

10:8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them.

10:9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.

10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." 10:1 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.

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