

*(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**All people:** *As the Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep, may we, too, strive to serve our neighbors. Whether next door, across town, or around the world, may God bless our prayers, our gifts, and our ministries. In Christ's name, we present these gifts. Amen.*

**HYMN** *He Leadeth Me* **RED Hymnal, #466**

## BENEDICTION

**Pastor:** May you show boldness before God in all you do.  
Following Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd,  
act with kindness, love, and humility.  
Bring comfort to others, acting with love and truth.

**All people:** *Amen.*

**CANDLE EXTINGUISHING** **Acolyte**

**POSTLUDE** **Mr. Kevin Crone**

### References

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April 21, 2024  
Fourth Sunday of Easter

## PREWORSHIP MUSIC

## GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CANDLELIGHTING PRELUDE

**Acolyte**  
**Mr. Kevin Crone**

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**Pastor:** The Lord is my Shepherd; I will fear no darkness.  
**Congregation:** **We will love one another, as Christ loves us.**  
**Pastor:** Christ, the Good Shepherd, has compassion for all.  
**Congregation:** **We will love one another, as Christ loves us.**  
**Pastor:** Open your hearts to goodness and mercy today.  
**Congregation:** **We will love one another, as Christ loves us.**  
**Pastor:** Love, not merely in thought and word,  
but in truth and action.  
**Congregation:** **We will love one another, as Christ loves us.**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**All people:** *Shepherding God, guardian of our souls, you offer us rest in the safety of green pastures. Shower us with your love and offer us the fullness of life in your name. When our spirits are parched, you lead us beside still waters and quench our thirst for righteousness; you restore our soul and heal our battered spirits. Touch our hearts and minds, that your goodness and mercy may follow us every day of our lives. May we abide in your love and grace for all eternity. Amen.*

**HYMN** *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation* **RED Hymnal, #324**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

**Pastor:** The joy of this Easter season continues as we are called to worship. Let us pause to confess our sins to our Good Shepherd.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All people:** *Savior God, you guide us, but we are slow to follow and stubborn. You welcome us to your fold, but we make others feel as if they don't belong. Forgive our alienating ways, our exclusion and judgment; the way we evaluate and compare, demean and degrade. Redeem us. Restore us. Help us be faithful as your flock. Amen.*

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: The Good Shepherd beckons all to come and be restored. Rejoice in the knowledge that you are loved!

*All people: Thanks be to the Good Shepherd for grace and pardon. Hallelujah!*

## PRAISE HYMN

*Halle, Halle, Halle*

BLUE Chalice Hymnal, #41

## PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor: May the peace of Christ make you ready for love to flow around and through you. May you boldly share his love as you pass the peace of Christ with one another this day.

*(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)*

## JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

## HYMN

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

RED Hymnal, #461

## FIRST READING

Acts 4:5-12

## PSALTER READING

Psalm 23

*All people: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy 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.*

## EPISTLE READING

1 John 3:16-24

## GOSPEL READING

John 10:11-18

## SERMON

Rev. Laura Baker

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Holy God, Good Shepherd, we turn to you in prayer because we need a leader, someone we can trust, someone who can show us the way in complicated and confusing times.

*All people: Guide us, Good Shepherd.*

Pastor: The world's problems overwhelm. The burden of suffering is great. We bear witness to tragedy after tragedy on the evening news as wolves circle your innocent sheep, threatening our hope for a just world, a path to peace

and a beloved kin-dom. What can we do, God? How can we be of help? What power do we have to transform evil to good?

*All people: Guide us, Good Shepherd.*

Pastor: When we doubt our worth and our belovedness, remind us that we are yours, that we belong, that we have place within your flock. Remind us and comfort us with the knowledge that in body and in soul, in life and in death we belong to you, our Savior and Shepherd. Unite your flock with your love and help us be as welcoming of others as you are to us.

*All people: Guide us, Good Shepherd.*

Pastor: Just as the shepherd knows each of his or her sheep, help us to know and care for the individuals that are in particular need of your merciful grace. Hear our prayers for: the innocent caught in the cross hairs of war, soldiers suffering from moral injury and PTSD, the sick and those who care for them, the grieving, the exhausted, the depressed, and those in need of resurrection hope. Guide us, Good Shepherd and hear us as we pray together the prayer our Savior taught us saying,

*All people: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

## ANTHEM

*Thou, O Lord, my Shepherd Art* (Emig)

Chancel Choir

## OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: The good shepherd calls us to love one another.

**Congregation: We come, abiding in love.**

Liturgist: The shepherd of love calls us to give of ourselves.

**Congregation: We come, abiding in faith.**

Liturgist: The shepherd of life calls us to be a blessing to others.

**Congregation: We come, abiding in God's blessings.**

Liturgist: In faith and love, with a song and a prayer, let us give offerings of blessings for others.

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)*

**OFFERING RESPONSE** *We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise*

*We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord.*

*We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord.*

*And we offer up to you, the sacrifices of thanksgiving;  
and we offer up to you the sacrifices of joy.*