

*to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our Risen Savior.*

**Council President:** In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Starview United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into this local church.

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

### **PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.*

**Pastor:** Welcome Paul, Barb, and Ruth. Go now, in the peace of Christ.

**All people:** *Thanks be to God. Amen.*

**ANTHEM** *Thou, O Lord, My Shepherd Art* (Emig) **Chancel Choir**

### **OFFERING INVITATION**

**Liturgist:** As we welcome new members today, we are reminded that the life of this community is shaped by what we share. We give – not out of obligation, but in gratitude for the abundant life we have received in Christ. Let us stand, as is comfortable, and offer our gifts with thankful hearts – with a song and a prayer.

**DOXOLOGY** *We Give Thee* (Verse 1) **Blue Hymnal #382**

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**All people:** *Gracious God, receive and bless these gifts and all who offer them, and use them – along with each of us – to build a community of welcome, faith, and abundant life. Amen.*

**HYMN** *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine* **Blue Hymnal #560**

### **BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:** Go now – as people who are known and called. Go – as a community that listens for Christ's voice in one another. Go – not to guard the gate, but to live the life that has already been opened to you. And may the Good Shepherd lead you, keep you, and bring you always into abundant life.

**All people:** *Amen.*

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

April 26, 2026  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

### **PREWORSHIP MUSIC**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME**

### **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**All people:** *Good Shepherd, you call each of us by name – not as strangers, but as beloved. You gather us into one-fold, not because we are the same, but because your love is wide enough to hold us all. On this day of welcome, remind us who we are: a people called, a people gathered, a people sent. Open our ears to hear your voice. Open our hearts to one another. Open our lives to the abundant life you promise. In Christ, who leads us, we pray. Amen.*

### **PRELUDE**

**Mr. Kevin Crone**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Pastor:** “My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.”

**Congregation:** **We are called by name, and we belong to God.**

**Pastor:** Not by force, not by fear, but by love that invites and gathers.

**Congregation:** **We come to listen. We come to follow. We come to live.**

**Pastor:** Christ is the gate – the One who opens the way to life.

**Congregation:** **We enter with joy, we dwell in grace, and we go out in love.**

### **HYMN**

*Draw Us in The Spirit's Tether* **Blue Hymnal #392**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

**Pastor:** There are many voices in our lives – and sometimes we lose track of the voice of Christ, the One who calls us by name and leads us into life. So we come honestly, trusting in God's grace, ready to return again to love. Let us pray.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All people:** *Gracious God, sometimes we forget your voice. We listen instead to fear, to division, to the noise of the world from the very life you offer. Forgive us. Call us back – not with shame, but with the steady, familiar voice of love. Remind us that we belong to you – and that there is room here for others, too. In your mercy, lead us again into life. Amen.*

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Hear the good news: The voice that calls you...is not a voice of condemnation. It is the voice of the Good Shepherd who knows you, who seeks you, who leads you into life. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. In Jesus Christ, you are known. In Jesus Christ, you belong.

*All people: Thanks be to God. Amen.*

## GLORIA PATRI

Blue Hymnal #35

## JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

## HYMN

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Blue Hymnal #558

## EPISTLE READING

Acts 4:5-12

## GOSPEL READING

John 10:1-10

## SERMON

*They Know my Voice*

Rev. Laura C. Baker

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Pastor: Friends in Christ, today we celebrate that the Church is always being renewed - not only by tradition, but by invitation. Today, three individuals come forward to publicly affirm what God has already begun in them: a desire to belong, to grow, and to live as part of the body of Christ in this place.

Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are equally citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus alone being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in Christ; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Barbara and Paul Lingg and Ruth Redmond, do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

## Candidates:

Pastor:

**I do.**

Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

## Candidates:

Pastor:

**I do.**

Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

## Candidates:

Pastor:

**I do.**

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

## Candidates:

Pastor:

**I promise, with the help of God.**

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

## Candidates:

Pastor:

**I promise, with the help of God.**

Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the Triune God. Do you believe in God?

## Congregation:

Pastor:

**I believe in God.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

## Congregation:

Pastor:

**I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

## Congregation:

**I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

Pastor:

Barb and Paul and Ruth, by your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

Pastor:

Ruth, Paul, and Barb, do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

## Candidates:

**I promise, with the help of God.**

Pastor:

Let us the members of Starview United Church of Christ express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

## All people:

***We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue***