

# Contemporary Worship

April 21, 2024

*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

## GATHERING MUSIC

*Psalm 23 – Stuart Townend*

*The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want. He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters, His goodness restores my soul.*

*And I will trust in You alone, And I will trust in You alone;  
For Your endless mercy follows me, Your goodness will lead me home.*

*He guides my ways in righteousness, And He anoints my head with oil;  
And my cup, it overflows with joy, I feast on His pure delights.*

*And though I walk the darkest path, I will not fear the evil one;  
For You are with me, And Your rod and staff are the comfort I need to know.*

## WELCOME

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Assembly: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## OPENING SCRIPTURE \*

Psalm 23

*A \* in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

*We begin worship by reading Psalm 23 together.*

*The leader will read the regular print and the assembly responds with the **bold** print.*

The LORD is my shepherd;

**I shall not be in want.**

<sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures

**and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,

**and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.**

<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

**you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

**and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SONG \*

Now the feast and Celebration

*Refrain*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

God; to make all things new.

## GOSPEL LESSON \*

John 10:11-18

*In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the tenth chapter.

Assembly: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SERMON

## SONG \*

*Shepherd Me, O God*

*The praise team will introduce the refrain and then all join in the refrain.*

*The praise team sings the verses and all join in the refrains that follow each verse.*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song: "Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "yond my fears, from death in - to life." The lyrics are written below the notes.

Verse 1: God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,  
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,  
I walk by the quiet waters of peace...*Refrain*

- Verse 2: Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,  
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,  
my spirit shall sing the music of your name...*Refrain*
- Verse 3: Though I should wander the valley of death,  
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,  
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope...*Refrain*
- Verse 4: You have set me a banquet of love  
in the face of hatred,  
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold...*Refrain*
- Verse 5: Surely your kindness and mercy follow me  
all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore...*Refrain*

*Text & Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23*  
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## **PRAYERS \***

*The assembly responds to each petition ending in "God of grace,"*

**Assembly: hear our prayer.**

*The assembly responds to the final petition ending with "through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord."*

**Assembly: Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

*Shepherd – Singh/Farren/Robinson/Thompson*  
Praise Team

*As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.*

*Offering plates are available at each entrance to the sanctuary and the QR code below can be used to give our tithes and offering.*



*Though I walk through the valley and I can't see the way,  
When the shadows surround me, I will not be afraid.*

*For I know You are with me; You will always provide.  
Though the path may be lonely, You will stay by my side.*

*I will rest my soul; I'll trust in You alone.*

*For the Lord, my Shepherd, leads me, leads me, and He is all I need.  
In the darkest valley, I know, I know my Shepherd is all I need.*

*Lord I know that You seek me when I'm trying to hide.  
And Your love, it pursues me all the days of my life.*

*I rest my soul in You alone.  
You light my way; You lead me on.*

## **CONFESSION \***

Leader: We come before God and each other in a time of confession.

We grumble and complain about our daily lot in life.

We read the newspapers, watch the broadcast news

and moan about the evil which flourishes in the world.

And we wonder, "Where are you, O God?"

We turn our backs on the needs of the poor.

We throw our hands up in the air and act as though we are defeated.

And we cry, "Why isn't God taking care of all this?"

**Assembly: Forgive us, patient Lord.**

**Forgive our arrogance, our ignorance, our pettiness.**

**Forgive us when we could have done something to help someone else,  
but chose instead to turn away.**

**Forgive us when we, by our attitudes and language, our thoughts and actions,  
have gone against your will.**

Leader: You are with us, Lord.

You lead us daily in right paths and offer to us the bread of life.

You stand with us in times of trial and in the presence of those whom we fear,  
giving us your abundant love.

And then you offer to us a place in your eternal home.

How can we doubt your presence?

**Assembly: Help us to trust you.**

**Help us to praise you**

**and remember that you have called us to be your witnesses  
and workers in this world.**

**Give us strength and courage,  
joy and peace for all the work that you have for us to do.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd,  
who laid down his life for us, his sheep, we pray.  
Amen.**

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS \***

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION \***

## **LORD'S PRAYER \***

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

*All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.*

*We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.*

*You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.*

*Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available  
in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.*

*You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets  
at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of  
the cups and packaging after the service.*

*Paper bags for the disposal of cups and packaging are available on the communion rail.*

*"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.*

Communion Server:    The body of Christ, given for you.  
                                  The blood of Christ, shed for you

Communion Receiver: Amen.

## **God Is So Good**

Verse 1:    God is so good, God is so good,  
                  God is so good, He's so good to me.

Verse 2:    He cares for me, He cares for me,  
                  He cares for me, He's so good to me.

Verse 3: I'll do His will, I'll do His will,  
I'll do His will, He's so good to me.

Verse 4: He loves me so, He Loves me so,  
He loves me so, He's so good to me.

Verse 5: He answers prayer, He answers prayer,  
He answers prayer, He's so good to me.

Verse 6: He is my Lord, He is my Lord,  
He is my Lord, He's so good to me.

*Text: Unknown*

*Music: African Melody*

*Arr.: All God's People Sing!*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

Pastor: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in his grace.

**Assembly: Amen.**

## **BLESSING \***

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Assembly: Amen.**

## **SONG \***

*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*

Halle, halle, hallelujah.  
Halle, halle, hallelujah.  
Halle, halle, hallelujah.  
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

*Music: Traditional Caribbean*

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## **DISMISSAL \***

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Assembly: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Pastor: Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Assembly: Thanks be to God.**

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**SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:**

Pastor Tim Iseringhausen, Lead Pastor  
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor  
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family  
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music - Praise Team

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**FLOWER DEDICATION:**

*The altar flowers are given by Jane McFadden in memory of her husband, John,  
whose birthday was April 18.*

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