



*Hope Congregational Church
United Church of Christ*

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WORSHIP CELEBRATION
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday

April 30, 2023

10:30 a.m.

PASTOR - Rev. Robert Nolan
MINISTER OF MUSIC - Kim Kuda
DEACON & LAY READER - Lori Russell
MUSIC TEAM - Andrew Foster, Dot Leone,
Dale Magnuson, Sangho Nam, Kim Kuda

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

INTROIT “O Come, Let Us Adore Him” (verses 1 & 2) No. 114

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God’s love for the world has been revealed in Jesus Christ, who gave us a new commandment: “...love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”

All: We are indifferent to the saving grace of your Word and Life,

One: And yet we could not recognize Jesus.

All: Heal us by your steadfast love made known to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: Praise God!

All: Alleluia!

*HYMN “Lord, You Are My Shepherd” Insert

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Loving Shepherd, You lead and guide, You walk alongside, You prepare, You feed, You call all of your sheep, even those of us who are lost, those of us who stray constantly, those of us who stay close to your comforting staff.

All: We are grateful for the lush green pastures of our lives, and we pause now to offer our thanksgivings for the gifts in our lives.

**If you are able to do so comfortably, please stand.*

NEWS AND NOTES

1. **Rev. Bob** will have his regular office hours this week on **Tuesday and Thursday**. He would also **like to visit with our members** when they are available in the office or at their home. If you are interested, contact the office or Rev. Bob directly.
2. The “**Get Crafty**” group meets on **Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.** Please bring your own crafts to work on as we enjoy fellowship with one another. A time of sharing where everyone is welcome!
3. **Next Sunday, May 7**, will be a special day of worship at Hope Church, during which we will **honor Shirley Lawson, Church Administrator**, who is retiring as of this Friday after 34 years of service. This will be followed by a social time in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!
4. **Mother’s Day, Sunday May 14th**, will be **Blanket Sunday**, “*Blanket the World In Love*”. More information is in “Hope Happenings”.
5. And don’t forget your used clothing for the **St. Pauly shed!**



ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

One: Let us pray. . . There are so many who walk in the shadows of fear and suffering and despair. We offer our prayers for the broken and bleeding places in this world. We also offer our prayers for the sheep of our own flocks, in our families and friends, in this our church and our community.

All: O Loving Shepherd, we have all we need, as we live in You.

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 734

TIME FOR ALL AGES

PASSING THE PEACE

One: God calls us to create a community which welcomes all:
To care and love unconditionally,
To free us and create a welcome for all.
May the Peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: Let's share that welcome with each other, that Love!

SCRIPTURE READING John 10:1-10 (The Message)

“Let me set this before you as plainly as I can. If a person climbs over or through the fence of a sheep pen instead of going through the gate, you know he's up to no good—a sheep rustler! The shepherd walks right up to the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate to him and the sheep recognize his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he gets them all out, he leads them and they follow because they are familiar with his voice. They won't follow a stranger's voice but will scatter because they aren't used to the sound of it.”

Jesus told this simple story, but they had no idea what he was talking about. So he tried again. “I'll be explicit, then. I am the Gate for the sheep. All those others are up to no good—sheep rustlers, every one of them. But the sheep didn't listen to them. I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.

SERMON

“Sheep, Gates, and Rustlers”

*HYMN “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” Insert

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastoral Prayer (including prayer concerns)

Time of Silent Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (using “debts” and “debtors”)

Prayer Response “Let the Church Say Amen”

*Let the church say amen, Let the church say amen,
Altogether, let the church say amen.*

DELIGHTING IN GIVING (Plates are at the back of the sanctuary.)

Invitation to Present Our Offerings

Offertory Music “Love One Another” Music Team

*Doxology “Alleluia No. 1”

(Refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name!

Spread the good news o’er all the earth.

Jesus has died and has risen. (Refrain)

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Heavenly God, all we have is because of You. May the gifts we give this day become a blessing for Your church, Your community, Your state, Your nation, Your world, empowering us to do the work to which You call us. May our faithful giving be used wisely with each one’s gift cherished, and our needs met. Continue to gather us at Your table which is not limited to our one church, but moves and breathes across varied worship spaces and places, across diverse cultures. May these gifts strengthen the bodies and nourish the spirits to bring glory to You. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” No. 344

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION - We invite you to sing with us:

“This Is the Day!”

This is the day that the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad!