

**Saint Paul's United Church of Christ**  
**Sunday, April 21, 2024**  
**4th Sunday of Easter**



*"Good Shepherd"*

Gathering of the People

Welcome

The Peace of Christ

Pastor: Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Peace be in our midst.

**People: Peace be in our very souls.**

Pastor: Peace be the light on our path.

**People: Peace be the way of our world.**

Pastor: Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Opening Video                    ""

Opening Reading                  "Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd"

Ringling of the Bells

\*Call to Worship    Jenny Coverstone – Worship Leader

L: The God of all shepherds has called us here.

**P: We come today, celebrating God's love for us.**

L: The Good Shepherd has given his life for us.

**P: We come today, thanking Jesus for his witness and his teaching.**

L: The Shepherding Spirit moves through us, bringing us new hope.

**P: We come today ready to celebrate and to praise God. AMEN.**

\*Opening Hymn                  "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing"

#42

\*Opening Prayer (unison)

Thank you, loving God, for bringing us to this time of worship. Refresh us and heal us again. Remind us of the many ways in which you have blessed our lives with your abundant love and your presence. Guide our hearts and our spirits that we may hear your words and our souls may be stirred into

active service to your people. In the name of the Good Shepherd, who leads us to life, we pray. AMEN.

## Presentation of the Offering

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Generous and surprising God, when we thought that death had claimed your only Son, you amazed us with the resurrection. Surprise us again with your ability to turn these humble offerings into gifts that will transform the world through our witness to your love. We lay our very lives at your feet, O God, knowing that you will use us to proclaim and embody the gospel. Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism

David James Marlow

Baptism Song

"Jesus Loves Me"

#327

Scripture

1 John 3:16-24

Psalm 23

Leader: For the Word of God in Scripture,

For the Word of God among us,

For the Word of God within us,

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Children's Message

Sharing of Prayer Concerns

Prayer Video

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Confession (unison)

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 or give only a cursory acknowledgment of their plight. 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?" 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. 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? 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 Assurance

In the midst of all that you fear, God is with you. God will not abandon you. Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, laid down his life for you and offers you hope and peace. AMEN.

#### Lord's Prayer (unison)

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer Response "Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying"

Scripture John 10 :11-18

Message "Good Shepherd"

\*Closing Hymn "Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us"

#252

\*Benediction (unison)

The Good Shepherd leads us forward, from this place, into the world to serve God's people, to witness to God's love in all that we do. Go in peace and God's peace will go with you. AMEN.

Postlude

Ringing of the Bells

Go in Peace