

April 21, 2024, Celebration Service (8:50 AM)

Prelude

Sunshine Gospel Singers: *He's a Personal Savior*

Welcome

†Congregational Hymns

*Savior, Like a Shepherd lead Us*

*The Gift of Love*

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

Joys

Thanksgiving Prayer

Offertory: Celebration Choir *Tune My Heart to Sing Thy Grace*

Doxology 94

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit,  
Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Call to Prayer *Gentle Shepherd* Combined Choirs

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

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. Amen.**

Prayer Response

*Lead Me, Lord*

†Prayer of Illumination

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen**

Scripture

**1 John 3:16-24**

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us--and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

**John 10:11-18**

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason, the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 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."

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon *Entanglement*

Invitation to Christ and the Church

Invitational Hymn

Receiving of New Members

(Congregational Response)

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you at Christ United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Benediction (The Light of Christ Taken into the World)

Benediction Response

*Every Morning is Easter Morning*

Prelude