

Order of Worship
FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE EASTER SEASON
9:30 am – April 30, 2023

Participating Live?

Text your prayer requests to 805-309-6867 before the end of the first hymn.

PRELUDE

Petite Pastorale
Used with permission
Kyle Hanks, organ

Kyle Hanks

GREETING

HYMN

Great is Thy Faithfulness

UMH 140

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1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **Refrain**

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **Refrain**

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Bruce Miller, liturgist

One: Healing God, In the midst of our busy lives, the stresses, burdens, and challenges
we face day in and day out,

All: We miss the silent wounds that we carry from our lack of connection to one another.

One: Heal us, God, from disconnection and isolation.

All: Bind us together and build in us a community of support and encouragement. Help us be for one another the Body of Christ, tending one another as we are tended by you. Amen.

HYMN

Come Away with Me

TFWS 2202

CCLI License # 345977 / CCLI Song # 2496559

Chorus: Come away with me. Come away

1. Come away with me to a quiet place apart from the world with its frantic pace
To pray reflect and seek God's grace
2. Come and pray with me on a gentle sea on top of a hill in the Galilee in gardens like Gethsemane
3. Come today with thoughts of the countless ways that God's steadfast love blesses all our days
And join with me in silent praise
4. Come and say in words whispered from your soul the feelings and actions you can't control
Your spirit needs to be made whole
5. Come away with me to a quiet place to God's loving arms waiting to embrace
All those who come in hope of grace

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.

CHORAL OFFERING

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Michael John Trotta

VFUMC Chancel Choir; Clara Johnson-Director; Kyle Hanks-Organist

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SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23; John 10: 22-30 (NRSV)

Bruce Miller, liturgist

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

"Are We Sheep?"

Rev. Melissa Roux MacKinnon

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Surely the Presence of the Lord UMH 328

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place; I can feel His mighty power and His grace.

I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face; surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Caring and compassionate God, we feel like we have been through so much. Battered by division, perceived by some as too judgmental and by others as too accommodating, and we know our witness to the world has suffered. Bless the gifts we give and help them to be used to sow seeds of kindness, healing, hope, and justice. When we as a church falter, remind us that Christ, our Good Shepherd, never falters. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

HYMN

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

UMH 557

CCLI / Streaming: 345977 / 20105371 / CCLI Song # 25369

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
3. We share each other's woes, our mutual burdens bear;
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.
4. When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude in G

Gustav Merkel

Public domain
Kyle Hanks, organ

The Lord Is My Shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want, brings me to green pastures, beside still waters.
He refreshes my soul. He renews my life, and by such grace, He leads me.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will not fear, for you are with me; Your rod
and staff, they comfort me.

As You prepare a table in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head; my cup overflows.

Goodness and kindness, shall follow me, all of the days, of my life, I will dwell in the house of the Lord.
Forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer Requests

St. Mark UMC of Santa Barbara—Pastor Cynthia Huskey

St. Paul's UMC of Oxnard—Pastor Rachel deBos-Haigler

All those suffering from illness or loss of loved ones.