

April 26, 2026

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us enter with thanksgiving and praise!

People: The Shepherd restores our souls, satisfies our needs, and leads us on the right path.

Leader: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us live with courage and conviction not fear and timidity.

People: Through valleys and storms, chaos and confusion, threats and concerns, the Shepherd comforts us with power and strength, love and compassion, hope and peace.

Leader: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us worship in the presence of the Holy One!

People: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all our days of my life. Let us dwell in God's presence forever!

*OPENING PRAYER

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

*HYMN #32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shepherd of our lives, like sheep, we wander and stray. We come to you for sustenance yet distance ourselves from your realm when you require more from us. We bite one another with words that cut and attitudes that reflect more apathy than care. We lie down and become stuck when you would expand our territory and sphere of belonging. We give you thanks for not giving up on us and continuing to lead us by your Spirit.

Give us courage and confidence to do your will and to love with our lives. We devote ourselves anew to your teaching, to community, to the sacramental life, and to prayer. Lead us in the ever full and renewed life in Christ. Amen.

Leader: Let us continue our confession together in silence.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved, the Shepherd cares for you and rejoices whenever you turn back to follow God's holy way. Life in the promise of glorious, flourishing life and the kingdom of God manifested on earth.

There is no detour you may take where the Shepherd cannot find you and urge you back into their loving embrace. You are redeemed and restored in Christ. Receive the goodness of God whose grace is sufficient and available for you to begin anew.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

FIRST READING

Psalm 23

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

ANTHEM Lead On, O King, Eternal

SECOND READING

John 21: 15-25

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON The Shepherds Among Us

Rev. Dr. Pamela Peterson

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN #187 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

To share a joy or concern: Click [HERE](#) or use the QR code

OFFERING Adagio in C

To give online: Click [HERE](#), or use the QR code

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

*CHARGE AND SENDING

POSTLUDE Open My Eyes, That I May See

Copyright: By the Gate: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday in Easter Year A was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.



Join us on Sunday, May 17th to celebrate our 2026 graduates and pray over them as they embark on new adventures! If you are a high school, college, trade school, or graduate school graduate or are the parent of a graduate, please reach out to Emma Kate Lander to ensure we have your name for our worship service.

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