

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday of the Good Shepherd
April 22, 2018 8:15a 10:30a

Welcome to Trinity United Church of Christ. We seek to offer a warm greeting to our visitors, whether you are visiting the area or seeking a church family. To assist you as you worship, we have large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices available. Please see an usher for assistance. We would be happy for you to sign the guest book in the gathering area while you are with us this morning. Whoever you are, wherever you are in life's journey, we are glad that you have come, and pray that you will be blessed by your worship experience. Come and see what God is doing!

denotes the congregation standing as you are able; congregational responses in **bold print*

There are few certainties in the world; we never know from one day to the next what unexpected twists and turns will confront us on our journey through this life. But of one thing we can be certain – we do not have to face the unexpected with fear. We have a Risen Savior who is near to us. Neither do we have to fear the gnawing difficulties that sometimes seem to drain energy out of us. This same Risen Savior will give us the confidence we need to face life “head on”. We do not have to run away from the unexpected difficulties nor the long term struggles, for Christ has removed all doubt and fear from our lives.

PRELUDE - “Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us” – *C. Callahan*

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP - “Listen to the Lambs”

Arr. by Augustus D. Zansig

Senior Choir

John Lucas, Soloist

TIME OF SHARING

Mission Moment

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

“My sheep hear my voice,” said Jesus, “I know them, and they follow me.

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.

No one will snatch them out of my hand” (*John 10:27-28*).

Hearing the invitation of the Good Shepherd,

let us come to hear his voice and to follow him wherever he leads.

We come today, each with our own needs.

If we are weary, may we find rest.

If we are anxious, may we find calm.

If we are afraid, may we find confidence.

If we are doubting, may we find renewal.

If we are ailing, may we find healing.

If we are apathetic, may our commitment be energized.

* PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Draw us together, Eternal One, from paths of aimless wandering.

Lead us toward the community you intend.

Draw the fragments of our lives together into some meaningful whole.

**Help us deal with present concerns in constructive ways,
yet point us beyond ourselves to engage with you in larger issues.**

**Help us feel the hunger and thirst of others;
then lead your Church to make a caring response.**

May your love fill us and overflow into the lives of others.

*GATHERING HYM # 252 – “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

TIME OF CONFESSION

How often it is winter in our lives.

The good we would do seems frozen within us,
and our faith is cold and sluggish.

A voice calls us to believe and to care,
to confess our doubts and awaken the potential within us.

Let us confess our unwillingness to follow the Good Shepherd wherever he might lead us.

**Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd to all who will follow you,
we confess that we have erred and strayed like lost sheep,
we have sometimes obeyed the call of false shepherds,
we have sometimes neglected to give thanks while walking in the pleasant meadows,
and we have sometimes failed to trust you as we walked through the dark valleys.**

And now let us confess in silence those fears that keep us from loving as Christ has loved us.

WE PRAY FOR GOD’S MERCY

Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Be assured of this:

God sees us,
God loves us,
God pardons us,
and God leads us.

Thanks be to God for this magnificent gift of love.

*** RESPONSE # 510 - "Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You"**

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

And now, experiencing once again the forgiving power of our loving God, let us say what we believe, using the New Creed.

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

Who has created and is creating,

Who has come in Jesus,

The word made flesh,

To reconcile and make new,

Who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

To celebrate God's presence,

To love and serve others,

To seek justice and resist evil,

To proclaim Jesus,

Crucified and risen,

Our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

(United Church of Canada)

CHILDREN'S TIME

ANTHEM

"To Thy Pastures"

By Robert C. Lau

Senior Choir

THE WORD OF GOD

Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

HYMN # 43 - "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

QUIET PREPARATION

SERMON

THE PRAYER FOR THE MORNING AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

For we ask it in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying:

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

PRAYER RESPONSE # 775 - "And God Will Raise You Up"

**And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.**

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

Jesus, in calling himself the Good Shepherd, said,

"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" (*John 10:16*).

Let us give generously so the words of Jesus can be fulfilled.

To our visitors -- the finances of the church are the responsibility of our church members.

As our guests, we ask visitors to simply pass the offering plate to the person sitting next to you in the pew.

Please sign the Registration Booklet at the end of each pew, then pass it to the next person. Thank you!

OFFERTORY - "Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You" - P. Manz

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE - "For the Life That You Have Given" (*Tune of # 397*)

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known;

With these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own.

Here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;

Give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Our tithes and offerings this morning are accompanied by prayers
that others will hear and accept the invitation
to be members of the flock of the Good Shepherd.**

***CLOSING HYMN # 400 – “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”**

***COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

In this have confidence —
that God will go with you through life’s dark valleys,
the valleys of sickness and pain,
the valleys of discouragement and depression,
the valleys of sorrow and separation,
and in the end, the valley of death’s dark shadow,
and God will lead you to the sunshine of the other side.

CHORAL “Amen”

By Jacob Handl (1550-1591)

Senior Choir

*** POSTLUDE – “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” – *M. Burkhardt***

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