

Third Sunday of Easter, Year B ..... April 18, 2021  
INVITATION AND GATHERING

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING WORDS

A relationship with God's creation and a ministry of caring for and healing the earth are integral to what it means to be a United Methodist. We believe that all of creation is God's, and that we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Our natural world is to be valued and conserved because God has called humanity to be its caretakers (Genesis 1:26-31).

**\*SCRIPTURE READING ..... Psalm 23**

**\* OPENING HYMN: # 128.....He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: I AM the good shepherd (the one who tends us, guides us into pastures, who recognizes the sounds of our names).

**People: I AM the good shepherd (the one who bends to heal us, travels through the deepest valleys with us, who gives up everything for us all).**

Leader: I AM the good shepherd (the one whose rod and staff comfort us, whose strength and love holds us, whose cup of love runneth over).

**People: I AM the good shepherd and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever**

**ALL: Let us gather here God's People in God's love for God's world.**

**\* Let us pray (Congregation):**

Creator God, you know your children. You know our disappointments and our discomfort. You know our longings and our needs. Help us to see what you are making new in heaven and on earth, in our lives and in our communities that we may participate in your healing work. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

**\* LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:**

**# 174 ..... His Name is Wonderful**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Look at the most important part of the church--us, the people. It is here that God is most alive, weaving us into a community of faith, teaching us how to love, challenging us far more, abundantly, than we could imagine by ourselves.

**\*SCRIPTURE READING: ..... 1 John 3:16-24 & John 10:11-18**

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

THE WORD MADE FLESH: "Listen to My Voice"

**\* RESPONSE TO THE WORD: # 558 ..... We Are the Church  
CONGREGATION IN PRAYER: Joys and Concerns**

**\* PRAYER HYMN: # 2200 ..... O Lord, Hear My Prayer**

**\* CLOSING HYMN: # 666 ..... Shalom to You**

**\* DISMISSAL BLESSING**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading: Psalm 23 (NKJV)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not <sup>[a]</sup>want. <sup>2</sup>He makes me to lie down in <sup>[b]</sup>green pastures; He leads me beside the <sup>[c]</sup>still waters. <sup>3</sup>He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will <sup>[d]</sup>dwell in the house of the LORD <sup>[e]</sup>Forever.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading: 1 John 3:16-24 & John 10:11-18 (CEV)

<sup>16</sup>We know what love is because Jesus gave his life for us. That's why we must give our lives for each other. <sup>17</sup>If we have all we need and see one of our own people in need, we must have pity on that person, or else we cannot say we love God. <sup>18</sup>Children, you show love for others by truly helping them, and not merely by talking about it.

<sup>19</sup>When we love others, we know that we belong to the truth, and we feel at ease in the presence of God. <sup>20</sup>But even if we don't feel at ease, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Dear friends, if we feel at ease in the presence of God, we will have the courage to come near him. <sup>22</sup>He will give us whatever we ask, because we obey him and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup>God wants us to have faith in his Son Jesus Christ and to love each other. This is also what Jesus taught us to do. <sup>24</sup>If we obey God's commandments, we will stay one in our hearts with him, and he will stay one with us. The Spirit that he has given us is proof that we are one with him.

### John 10:11-18

<sup>11</sup>I am the good shepherd, and the good shepherd gives up his life for his sheep. <sup>12</sup>Hired workers are not like the shepherd. They don't own the sheep, and when they see a wolf coming, they run off and leave the sheep. Then the wolf attacks and scatters the flock. <sup>13</sup>Hired workers run away because they don't care about the sheep.

<sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and they know me. <sup>15</sup>Just as the Father knows me, I know the Father, and I give up my life for my sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that are not in this sheep pen. I must bring them together too, when they hear my voice. Then there will be one flock of sheep and one shepherd.

<sup>17</sup>The Father loves me, because I give up my life, so that I may receive it back again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes my life from me. I give it up willingly! I have the power to give it up and the power to receive it back again, just as my Father commanded me to do.



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LeRoy United Methodist Church

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