



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, April 30, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Thank you for joining us today.

For Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Prayer List, [visit this week's E-Pistle here](#), where you can also subscribe to receive it by email, if you like.

***- stand if you wish to, and are able.**

Congressional Responses in Bold

Prelude *God Will Take Care of You*

Peter Black

(Please use this time for quiet reflection and preparation for worship)

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of Altar Candles & Ringing in the Hour

Let us recognize the light of the world within us and ring in the hour of worship.

Introit (please stand)

This is the Day

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

Call to Worship

Psalm 23

Reader: Mark Johnston

One: God is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Many: God makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

One: God restores my soul, and leads me in right paths.

All: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I do not fear, for God is with me.

One: God prepares a banquet table before me in the presence of my enemies.

All: God anoints my head with oil and my cup overflows.

One: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

All: And I shall dwell in the house of God my whole life long. Amen.

***Opening Hymn,**

Easter Alleluia (vs. 1-4)

(Green Gather Hymnal No.424)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

God of Justice, there are moments when we feel drawn to take a stand for a particular cause or advocate for people in need. The more we become involved in this type of work, the more we rely on your wisdom and guidance. Being called to effect change, we seek your Spirit, so that we can be sure that the Spirit of God is always leading us. We turn to you now for Divine guidance and new insight about the ways we can move forward with love. As we answer the call of Spirit, give us the patience and courage we need to embark with faith and love upon your Divinely-directed path. Amen.

Assurance of Grace and Peace

One: Peace be with you.

Many: *And also with you.*

One: Let us offer one another a sign of Peace.

Passing the Peace

Metta Prayer

May I be at peace. May my heart remain open.

May I awaken to the light of my own true nature.

May I be healed and be a source of healing for all beings.

May we be at peace. May our hearts remain open.

May we awaken to the light of our own true nature.

May we be healed and be a source of healing for all beings.

Words of Integration & Guidance

by Phillip Keller from the book, A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23

In Psalm 23, the Good Shepherd makes the sheep lie down in pastures of plenty. The strange thing about sheep is that because of their very make-up, it is almost impossible for them to be made to lie down unless four requirements are met. Owing to their timidity, they refuse to lie down unless they are free of all fear. Because of the social behavior within a flock, sheep will not lie down unless they are free from friction with others of their kind. If tormented by flies or parasites, sheep will not lie down. Only when free of these pests can they relax. Lastly, sheep will not lie down as long as they feel in need of finding food. They must be free from hunger. It is significant that to be at rest there must be a definite sense of freedom from fear, tension, aggravations and hunger. The unique aspect of the picture is that it is only the shepherd who can provide release from these anxieties. It all depends upon the diligence of the owner, whether or not their flock is free of disturbing influences. When we examine each of these four factors that affect sheep so severely, we will understand why the part the owner plays in their management is so tremendously important. It is actually they who make it possible for them to lie down, to rest, to relax, to be content, and quiet, and flourishing. A flock that is restless, discontented, always agitated and disturbed never does well. And the same is true of people.

Powerful Witness

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Acts 2:42-47

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to John 20:3-8

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

“Divine Life in Little Things” Rev. Keith Mannes

Offering & Offertory

Feed My Lambs

Jeff Spangler and Peter Black

Composer: John Angotti

Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: Alleluia!

One: O God,

Many: Hear our prayer.

*Doxology

Alleluia, Give Thanks

Alleluia, alleluia give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia give praise to our God.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth, Jesus has died and is risen.

Alleluia, alleluia give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia give praise to our God.

***Celebration of Holy Communion**

One: God be with you.

Many: *And also with you.*

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: *We lift them up to God.*

One: Let us give thanks to God.

Many: *It is good to give God thanks & praise*

***Creation's Praise** *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Holy, holy, holy, God ruler almighty.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Glory be to you, O God.

Blessed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of God.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

(Please be seated)

Breaking of the Bread *A Communion Hymn*

This we do in remembrance of You, this we do to honor you; Oh-h-h-h--

This we do in remembrance of You, because you have bid us to.

(Repeat after verse)

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

(grape juice only on both sides of the aisle)

Receive the Bread of Life. **Amen.**

The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. **Amen.**

***The Lord's Prayer**

Our Mother/Father, always and everywhere, 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. Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the
glory forever. Amen.*

***Hymn of Sending**

The Lord is My Shepherd
(Green Gather Hymnal No.643)
(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude

God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again
Peter Black

Keep up with the Douglas UCC community
and the work of our service groups here:

www.douglasucc.org

<https://www.youtube.com/douglasucc>

<https://www.facebook.com/douglasucc>

<https://www.instagram.com/douglasucc>

Easter Alleluia 424

Refrain

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

Verses

1. Glo - ry to God who does won - drouthings, Let all the
 2. See how sal - va - tion for all has been won, Up from the
 3. Now in our pres-ence the Lord will ap - pear, Shine in the
 4. Call us, Good Shep-herd, we lis - ten for you, Want-ing to
 5. Lord, we are o - pen to all that you say, Read - y to
 6. If we have love, then we dwell in the Lord, God will pro -

peo - ple God's prais - es now sing, All of cre - a - tion in
 grave our new life has be - gun, Life now per - fect - ed in
 fac - es of all of us here, Fill us with joy and cast
 see you in all that we do, We would the gate of sal -
 lis - ten and fol - low your way, You are the pot - ter and
 tect us from fire and sword, Fill us with love and the

splen - dor shall ring:
 Je - sus, the Son:
 out all our fear:
 va - tion pass through: Al - le - lu - ia!
 we are the clay:
 peace of his word:

The Lord Is My Shepherd 643

Verses



1. The Lord is my shep-herd, my shield and my
2. If I walk in the val-ley of dark-ness, the
3. Sure-ly good-ness and kind-ness will al-ways pur-
4. The Lord is my shep-herd, green pas-tures, cool



strong-hold, de-fend-ing me sound-ly, re-deem-ing my shame.
 shad-ow of death, then no fear will I have, you are there
 sue me. My ta-ble is full now; my cup o-ver-flows.
 wa-ter; He ten-ders me al-ways, love ev-er the same.



He will an-swer my call 'til the fall of the
 with your staff and your rod, O my God, give me
 While my head is a-noint-ed the time is ap-
 He will an-swer my call 'til the fall of the

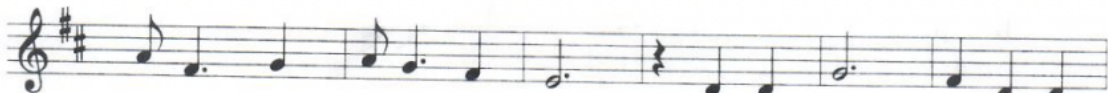


moun-tains, the fall of the cit-ies; he's true to his name.
 com-fort, O God give me com-fort, as al-ways you have.
 point-ed; for-ev-er I live in the house of the Lord.
 moun-tains, the fall of the cit-ies; he's true to his name.

Refrain



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, the Lord is my



shep-herd and ev-er the same. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-



lu-ia, the Lord is my shep-herd; he's true to his name.