



**DOUGLAS UCC**  
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

**Order of Service for Sunday, May 8, 2022**

## **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**     *Standing on the Promises*  
Arrangement by Mark Hayes  
Bob Ruddy

*(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) *Arise, Shine*

*Arise, shine, for your light has come.  
And the glory of our God has risen upon you like the sun.  
Lift your eyes, look around, rejoice.  
Lift your eyes, look around, rejoice.*

## **Call to Worship**

Reader: Julie Ridl

Psalm 23

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,**

*No Longer Strangers*

(Green Gather Hymnal No.734)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

## **Unison Prayer**

By Rev. Mark Sandlin

**Loving God: Today, we pause to give thanks for the deep love of mothers, and we give thanks for those who've been mothers in less traditional ways, too. From older siblings in a motherless home to gay parents raising children together, we are thankful for the ways they nurture the children of the world. At the same time, we pause to remember those who struggle with the role of mother, and for those who yearn to become mothers. And on this day that we celebrate mothers, may we also remember those who cannot bring themselves to celebrate today because their mothers were less than motherly. And, we pray for those who long for an embrace from their mother just one more time. Loving God, as we give thanks for the mothers in our lives, may we recognize the reflection of you in them, and may we live into that reflection with everyone we meet. 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**    *Draw the Circle Wide*

Draw the circle wide.

Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,

Draw the circle wide.

(repeat after verse)

### **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, quiet, and flourishing. A flock that is restless, discontented, always agitated, and disturbed never does well. And the same is true of people.

# **The Shepherd's Voice**

## **The Words of Holy Scripture**

One: A Reading of Scripture from Acts 9:36-43

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

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel Lesson**

One: The Holy Gospel according to John 10:22-30

**Many: Glory to you, O Christ.**

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

**Many: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Homily** "Following the Shepherd's Voice"

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

**Offering & Offertory** *"It's In Every One of Us"*

Pamela Chappell

Composer: David Pomeranz

# **The Inner Way**

## **Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell**

One: Thanks be to God!

**Many: Alleluia!**

One: O God,

**Many: Hear our prayer.**

**\*Doxology** *Give Thanks to the Lord*

**Give thanks to the Lord for God is good, and God's mercy shall endure.**

**For God alone has done marv'lous things, give thanks unto the Lord.**

**God made the earth and heaven with a strong and mighty hand.**

**God has moved us to sing, proclaim this song! Give thanks unto 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** *Patriquin*

Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might:  
Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the One who comes, who come in God's name. Hosanna in the highest.

*(Please be seated)*

## **Breaking of the Bread** *Let Us Talents (NC#347)*

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

(First time quietly, second time louder with more energy)

## **Sharing of the Bread & Cup**

Receive the Bread of Life. **Amen.**  
The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. **Amen.**

# **Always and Everywhere**

## **\*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**             *I've Got the Joy*  
Arrangement by Pepper Choplin  
Bob Ruddy

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

[www.douglasucc.org](http://www.douglasucc.org)

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

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

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

# No Longer Strangers 734

Verses



1. We once were lost; with-out  
 2. We once were cut off; but now  
 3. We who once were dead, now we



hope, with - out God; but now in Christ  
 we are brought near, for Christ is our  
 live in the light, we fol - low Christ



Je - sus, we have been found!  
 peace, we were bro - ken, now whole! One  
 Je - sus, a - bun - dant in grace! Who



Saved by the prom-ise of God!  
 spir - it, one Bod - y of Christ!  
 saved us, who raised us to life!

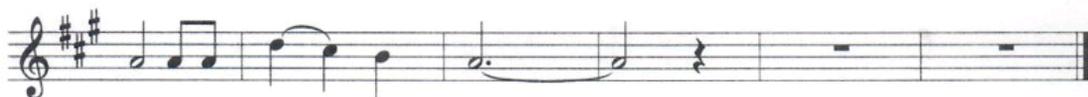
Refrain



No long - er stran-gers, no long-er lost and a - lone!



No long - er stran-gers, now we are saints! We are



one in the house of God!

## 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.

