



CHURCH ON THE AVENUE

St. Luke's, Hampden

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

WELCOME & INSTRUCTION

Participants are invited to respond with the text in bold type.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.
In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.

Where despair prevails, grant hope.
 Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
 We ask this through Christ,
 who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.
Amen.

ASPERGES | *The assembly may make the sign of the cross as water is sprinkled.*

GATHERING HYMN | Shepherd Me, O God

ELW 780

Refrain
 All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from



death in - to life. *to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5* *to stanza 4*

Leader or All



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth - ing shall I want, I
 2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you
 3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I



rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I
 lead me by path - ways of righ - teous - ness and truth, my
 fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

Refrain



walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.
 spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.
 rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Leader or All

4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of

ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Refrain

Leader or All

5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;

I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain

All

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -

yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23
 Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen
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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING | 1 John 3:16-24

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23

¹The LORD ¹ is my shepherd;
I shall not ¹ be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down ¹ in green pastures
and leads me be- ¹ side still waters.

³You restore my ¹ soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways ¹ for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall ¹ fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they ¹ comfort me. R

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence ¹ of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is ¹ running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days ¹ of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the ¹ LORD forever. R

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Celtic Alleluia

ELW 174

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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GOSPEL READING | John 10:11-18

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

God is with you. **And also with you.**

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE |

Rev. Jim Muratore

BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

- When have you encountered rejection of your faith in Jesus? How did it challenge you? What came of the experience?
- How do you recognize the “sheep that do not belong to this fold?”

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Strengthen ecumenical and interfaith partnerships for the good of humanity. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Instill in us the compassion to actively care for people who are vulnerable. We pray for Bob and Jeanette, Rob and Scott, Sharon and Erick, Ron and Beryl, Amanda, Rosha and Ron, Buddy, Luke and Melissa, Jack, Amelia, Matt and Kelly, Michael, Noah, Landis, Trish, Roman, Pam, Jim, Charles, Joe, Katie and for all whom we now name.... God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from distractions that keep us from following you. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Offering may be made electronically on the church's website at www.churchontheavenuehampden.org. You can also sign up for automated giving. See announcements at the end of the bulletin.

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION

The assembly is invited to stand in body or spirit.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



[P] The Lord is here



[A] God's Spir - it is with us

[P] Let us lift up our hearts

[A] We lift them to our God

[P] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

[A] It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right that we should always and everywhere give thanks and praise to you, O God, our Father and Mother, through Jesus Christ our Lord, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, Holy Lord,
 God of power and might.
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again. Christ will come again.

Breathe your Spirit on us, O God, and saturate these gifts of bread and wine in the presence of Christ, that as we await his return, we may grow to love one another. Let us be nourished by this sacrament, this visible sign of your + invisible grace, to live in your abundance.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours Almighty God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav-en.
Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri-al
and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow'r,
and the glo-ry are yours, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

And so we have this meal. Simplicity and mystery bound together. And though we cannot fully comprehend its meaning, we share, we remember and we trust in the promise of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.

Blessed be God forever!

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion is served by way of intinction. Come forward in a counter clockwise circle. Hand sanitizer is available at the altar for your use. Receive the bread in your hand and dip into the cup. The clay chalices are filled with grapes juice, and the metal chalices are filled with wine. The second station of chalices is reserved for gluten free recipients. If you wish not to receive you are welcome to remain seated or come forward with crossed arms to receive a blessing. ALL are welcome to come and receive without exception.

COMMUNION HYMN | You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

ELW 484

Refrain



You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



- 1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



Refrain

so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.
that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav' n - ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997
Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THERAPEUTIC YOGA | Saturdays, 10:00 am

All levels therapeutic yoga led by Yoga Christy begins this Saturday, March 30th!
Sliding scale, \$11-\$111

FEELINGS AND NEEDS EXPLORATION | Saturdays, 10:00 am

Feelings and Needs Exploration (FNE) is a method for expressing your feelings and identifying what motivates them: your underlying needs. Feelings and Needs Exploration (FNE) is a method for expressing your feelings and identifying what motivates them: your underlying needs. Pay-What-You-Can, Recommended \$35-\$350

CRYSTAL MONDAYS | Beginning April 1st

Join Crystals with Nereus and Harmony Works from 6:30 – 8pm every Monday at St. Luke's Church on The Avenue to explore meditation, music, and minerals. We'll connect with crystals, enjoy sound baths, and learn how to use these grounded, healing tools in our everyday lives. Suggested Donation, \$22-\$222

COME AND SEE!!! So much is going on here at St. Luke's Church on the Avenue, please visit our website to view the calendar and explore links to activities happening every day! Visit us at www.churchontheavenuehampden.org or by scanning the QR Code below.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for sustaining our ministry during this strange and difficult time! You can provide offering or make a special gift at anytime through the church's giving portal. Links can be found in the e-newsletter and on the church website at <http://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org>. or by scanning the QR Code below.



BENEDICTION

God is with you! **And also with you!**

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you: wherever he may send you;

May Spirit guide you through the wilderness: protect you through the storm;

May she bring you home rejoicing: at the wonders she has shown you;

May she bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.

And may God bless you, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN | Commonwealth is God's Commandment

ACS 1036



1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,



Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.
stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man-y folds.
bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.



Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha: com-mon good is ho-ly ground.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**