

Sunday, April 25th, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Love one another, even when love involves risk.

All: We love as God loves us.

One: Love and care for others, even when caring is hard.

All: We love and care as God loves and cares for us.

One: Love in truth and action.

All: By this we are known as children of God.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Hymn: **VU# 410** “This Day God Gives Me”

Prayer of Approach (said together)

Shepherd of love, guide our thoughts and our actions, that we too might become shepherds of love. Speak to our hearts as we listen today, that our hearts may expand and embrace all of your sheep.

Love us fully, that we might love all of the flocks of your world as fully as we are loved by you. In your shepherding love, we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 23

Gospel Reading: John 10: 11-18

Hymn **VU# 747** “The Lord’s My Shepherd”

The Lord’s Prayer

Good News Time

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Shepherd, give us the grace to love as you love. Give us the courage to protect and care for others, even when we are afraid. Grant us the strength to love in truth and action, even when loving this way challenges us.

Awaken our curiosity and empathy, even when we tend to neglect the needs of others. Forgive us when our love is absent, and show us how to offer our love with more than just words.

Shepherd us in our loving and in our living, that others may see in us the fruit of your goodness and mercy. In your love and grace, we pray. Amen.

(A time of quiet reflection on the prayer we have just shared)

Assurance of Pardon

One: The spirit abides in each of us- loving us, loving through us, forgiving us, and forgiving through us.

All: We are loved and forgiven, even as we love and forgive. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Anthem: Tommy and Eileen Walker ~ *“The Good Shepherd”*

Sermon: Fleeced

Hymn: **VU# 273** “The King Of Love My Shepherd Is”

The Offering

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Hymn **VU# 274** “Thy Hand, O God, Has Guided”

The Blessing and Benediction

Go now in peace, never be afraid;
God will go with you each hour of every day;
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe;
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above!
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

Words: Don Besig and Nancy Price, Music: Don Besig © 1999

Postlude: *Fernando Ortega – “The Good Shepherd”*