



**Worship Service On-Line
Fourth Sunday of Easter; May 3, 2020
Community Congregational Church of Chula Vista, UCC
P.O. Box 5574
Chula Vista, CA 91912**

Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 23)*

Pastor: Let us say these familiar words,
recognizing in the Risen Christ, our Good Shepherd:

**People: Jesus, you are our shepherd.
We shall never want.**

Pastor: You make us lie down in green pastures;
you lead us beside the still waters.
You restore our souls.

**People: You guide us in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake.
Even though we may walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
we fear no evil, for you, Christ, comfort us.**

Pastor: Jesus has prepared a table for us
 in the presence of our foes;
 Jesus has anointed us with the oil of salvation;
 our cup runs over!

**All: Surely, goodness and mercy will follow us
 all the days of our lives,
 And we will dwell in the house
 of our Holy Savior forever and ever. Amen.**

Prayer of Invocation (In unison)

Incarnate God, You are the one who comes to us in Jesus Christ.
 Holy One, You are the one who comes to us in the Holy Spirit.
 Sovereign of Earth and Heaven, You are the one who calls us to recognize you today and
 every day. Gather our hearts and minds this day.
 Let us worship you in awe and wonder! Guide us as we worship You now, O Jesus, our Good
 Shepherd! Amen.

Hymn of Adoration "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us" (NCH, #252) Verses 1, 3

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
 Much we need your tender care;
 In your pleasant pastures feed us,
 For our use your folds prepare.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 You have bought us your we are:
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 You have bought us, your we are.*

*Let us always seek your favor;
 Let us always do your will;
 Jesus Christ our only Savior,
 with your love our spirits fill.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 You have love us, love us still;
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 You have loves us, love us still.*

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading**Psalm 23; John 10: 1-11 (NRSV)****Psalm 23**

*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
 he leads me beside still waters;
 he restores my soul.
 He leads me in right paths
 for his name's sake.
 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
 I fear no evil;
 for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff—
 they comfort me.
 You prepare a table before me
 in the presence of my enemies;
 you anoint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows.
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
 all the days of my life,
 and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
 my whole life long*

John 10:1-11

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Meditation Song**"I'll Walk With God," Sung by choir member, David Hand****Communion Homily****"Jesus the Good Shepherd: We Shall Not Want"**

Holy Communion

The Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving:

Pastor: The Holy One is here.

People: God's Spirit is with us.

Pastor: Let us open our hearts to God.

People: We open them to God and to one another.

Pastor: Give thanks to God.

People: All our thanks, all our praise!

Pastor: O God, who changed chaos into creation, you know the trembling hearts of your children: Adam hiding naked. Eve was exiled, no way to return. Hagar abandoned to die. Moses stuttering before Pharaoh, Daniel thrown to lions, David facing the giant Goliath, Esther petitioned the king. To all, you comforted delivered, and inspired! Shelter us now, O God, of all ages! Give us your strength, patience, and calm in the midst of this pandemic.

People: Holy, Holy, Holy, God of majesty and love! Creation sings your glory, O God Most High! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna!

Pastor: To a fearful world you sent your child Jesus. Jesus came among us, taught, healed, saved, confronted and comforted. And troubled minds eased, turbulent seas quieted, children rested, and followers were transformed.

When Jesus ate with his friends, He took bread, and after blessing it, He broke it and gave it to them saying: "Take, eat, this is my body given for you. Each time you do this, remember me."

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying, "Drink, this cup poured out for you is the promise of God, made in my blood. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

We remember Jesus' death and resurrection, our hope! We recall all these mighty acts. We break bread and share our cup. We pray for our world.

People: Christ, come and comfort!

Christ, come and redeem!

Christ, come and create a new, healed, world!

(Blessing of the elements- please place your hands over the juice and bread)

Pastor: Powerful and peaceful God. Breath your Spirit upon us and on these gifts, that all who eat and drink at our shared table may be one body, one holy people, a bold and faithful people, a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, One with the Holy Spirit

All glory is yours everywhere, now and forever.

At this time, in the silence, we also remember all those who suffering and are in pain. Those who are without work, through who are raved by this virus, those who live with fear, oppression, or hunger, and those who long for your peace, love and justice.

(Silence)

Pastor: In the peace and presence of the Holy Spirit we pray the prayer of Jesus, our Savior and friend. ***Our Father who art in heaven...***

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving: (In Unison)

Loving God who came to us in flesh so that we might love you and one another, we thank you for refreshing us at this table. We thank you for reminding us that your perfect love casts out all fear. We thank you that death does not have the last word. Not illness, not fear, and not isolation. We give you our hopes, our dreams, our fears, and our sadness and ask that you transform it into your perfect will for us and all those around us. We love you. Amen.

Closing Hymn “What A Friend We Have In Jesus”

***What a Friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs o bear!
What a privilege to carry. Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer.***

***Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior still our refuge- Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do they friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee- Thou wilt find a solace there.***

Benediction

(Today's worship service was adapted by Pastor Liz and comes from [UCC Worship Ways](#) and used with permission. Copyright 2020. Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, Cleveland, OH. The Communion liturgy was originally designed for UCC churches to use after the tragic events of 9/11 and were then shared at a UCC Partners in Education event in Scottsdale, AZ in 2004. Other worship materials prepared/written by Rev. Liz Aguilar.)