



The **Lord** is my shepherd,
I shall not want.
Psalm 23: 1



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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April 25, 2021

The Family of God Gathers

Prelude

Please let the prelude be a signal to prepare for worship.

“He Leadeth Me”
arr. Lorie Line

Call to Worship †§

- L: Jesus said that he is the great shepherd.
P: **He lays down his life for his sheep.**
L: We, too, proclaim that our shepherd is Jesus.
P: **He knows us, and we belong to him.**
L: Jesus Christ is our shepherd who gathers, protects, and guides us.
P: **He speaks, and we listen for his voice.**
L: Let us listen for his voice today.
P: **We listen, and respond!**

Opening Hymn

“Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows”

**Such perfect love my Shepherd shows, whose goodness fails me never,
Whose hand all things I need bestows and watches me forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow, my loving Shepherd leads me,
And where the verdant pastures grow with food from heaven feeds me.**

**When vain and foolish oft I strayed, you, faithful Shepherd sought me,
And on your shoulder gently laid, then home rejoicing brought me.**

**And so through all the length of days your goodness fails me never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise within your house forever.**

Prayer of Confession †

Lord, have mercy on us. We talk about love, but our actions betray us. We talk about love, but we neglect the poor. We talk about love, but we fail to love one another. Lord, have mercy on us. Forgive us, and abide in us by the power of your Spirit so that our lives may show our love for Jesus Christ, in whose body we live and in whose name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon §

L: The Good News of the Gospel is that the Shepherd knows you and claims you as his own: in Jesus' name, you are forgiven! May the peace of Christ be with you.

The Sign of Peace

Now please take a moment and share the peace with those in your household and/or offer a moment to send prayers of peace to those you love who are not with you.

Centering Music

“I Come to the Garden Alone”

The Service of the Word

New Testament Lesson

1 John 3:16–24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How 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?

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

And 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. All 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.

Psalm 23

L: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

P: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

L: He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

P: 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.

L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

P: 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.

Gospel

John 10:11–18

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No 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.”

Sermon

Musical Offering “I Know That My Redeemer Liveth”

Hannah Zehms, soloist

Please mail your offerings to the church or drop them off at the office.

The Response to the Word

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

**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, yours we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, yours we are.**

**We are yours, in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.**

**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 loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.**

Benediction †§

L: The word of God assures us: What we will be has not yet been revealed.

P: We will live, therefore, with hope, sharing our joy, withholding our anger, shedding our disappointments, and turning to all people with gentleness.

L: The Lord bless and keep you, shine upon you with grace and mercy, and give you what is needed for each new day.

All: Amen!

Postlude

“Hope Will Rise Again”

Words and Music: Andra Moran and Ben Grace

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§ Modified/written by Rev. David Huber

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. David Huber • Ministers: All the people of Plymouth • Pianist: Lynn McFadyen • Liturgist: Keith Zehms

We of Plymouth extend to you our hand of fellowship and an invitation to become a member. If you are interested, or have any questions, please speak with or send a note to Pastor David or our Moderator, Barb Kleist. Our table always has room for more.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, April 25

Tuesday, April 27

9:00 A.M. Coffee & Conversation

Thursday, April 29

3:30 P.M. Coffee & Conversation

Sunday, May 2

10:30 A.M. In-person Worship
with Communion

Celebrate May Day

with us on Sunday, May 2 as we worship in person again!

Communion will be served. The Community Table offering will be taken. Coffee will not be served, but that will happen at some point in the future. Of course, masks will still be required along with social distancing. Hand sanitizers will be readily available.

Cross illumination for April is sponsored by Lil Savage in memory of Marie Savage.

We pray for:

- All houses of worship—churches, temples, and mosques in the Chippewa Valley who provide ecumenical and interfaith combined fellowship and service to our community.

Who we are...

Plymouth UCC is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, since we are all created in God's image. We welcome into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ persons of every race, ethnic background, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socio-economic background, marital status and background. We welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, humor, and blessings of participation in our congregation.

Spiritual Care Package

Questions for Reflection

What does it mean to lay down our lives for one another (1 John 3:16)? Think about people who have been "good shepherds" for you, sharing the love and showing the way of Jesus Christ. Who has helped to lead you in right paths or walked with you in dark valleys? Who has given you comfort and calmed your fears? Who has shown you hospitality and grace, making a place at the table for you, even when you felt surrounded by enemies? How have you done these things for others?

Household Prayer: Morning

Good shepherd, walk beside me through the joy and trouble of this day, and lead me in right paths for your name's sake. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Good shepherd, remain with me in the dark and stillness of this night, and let me lie down in safety to restore my soul. Amen.

God is still speaking,