

United Church of Christ, First Congregational  
Norwich, New York  
May 3, 2020

**A TIME OF GATHERING AS WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD**

**PRELUDE** *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us*  
Handbell Choir  
(recorded February 25, 2018)

William B. Bradbury  
Arr. D. Linda McKechnie

**WELCOME**  
(Rev. John Steitz)

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** (Bob and Linda Oehme, Jessica and Melanie Posner)

Good Shepherd,  
you call us by name,  
and we know your voice.  
Open the gate for us,  
that we may come and go freely,  
have life, and have it abundantly. **Amen**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Bob and Linda Oehme, Jessica and Melanie Posner)

ONE: Loving God, we pray that your Holy Spirit will strengthen us  
to be devoted to the teachings of your Word,

**ALL: We pray that through it we may hear your voice  
and follow it into eternal life. Amen.**

**HYMN** *My Shepherd is the Living God*  
Mary Williams, voice  
Bob Oehme, organ

(Tune: CONSOLATION)

**CHILDREN'S TIME** (Linda Oehme)  
The Lord's Prayer

**CONGREGATIONAL GREETING OF PEACE**

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**SCRIPTURE** - Psalm 23

(Steve Craig)

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup>he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>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.

## **ANTHEM**

*Because the Lord Is My Shepherd*  
Meena Conant

by Christopher Walker

## **SCRIPTURE** - John 10:1-10

(Steve Craig)

“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. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

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

## **SERMON**

**PIANO INTERLUDE** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* arr. C.E. Walz  
Jason Handy, piano

## **PASTORAL PRAYER / PRAYER PRACTICE**

Intercessory Prayer: Prayer requests to God for ourselves and others.

- What do your prayer requests to God reveal about your priorities, goals, desires and heart?
- If God asked you to pray for something or someone, what do you think God would ask you to pray for?

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*O Jesus, I Have Promised*  
Mary Williams, voice  
Bob Oehme, organ

(Tune: ANGEL'S STORY)

## **BLESSING** (Pastor John)

May the God who calls us by name  
lead you out to green pastures  
and lead you in to the safety of Christ's fold.

**POSTLUDE** *Beautiful Savior*  
Handbell Choir  
(recorded March 10, 2019)

Schönster Herr Jesu  
Arr. James L. Klein