

**United Church of Christ, First Congregational
Norwich, New York
April 25, 2021**

PRELUDE *Prelude and Fugue in F Major*
Jason Handy, organ

J. S. Bach

WELCOME (Pastor John)

PRAYER OF THE DAY (Ed Tucker)

We are your people, O God
the sheep of your pasture,
the flock you have gathered.
Lead us beside still waters;
teach us the way of righteousness;
and feed us at your table;
through Jesus Christ,
our good shepherd. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Linda Oehme)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Jason Handy)

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

He lays down his life for his sheep.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

He knows us, and we belong to him.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

He speaks, and we listen for his voice.

HYMN *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us* (#252)

Attributed to Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779-1847)

Tune: BRADBURY by William B. Bradbury, 1859

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.

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.

SCRIPTURE (Jason Handy)

Psalm 23

A Psalm of David

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
³ he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
⁴ 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.
⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
⁶ 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 *God's Peace*

Tune: Beach Spring, Attributed to B. F. White
Words by Marva J. Dawn
Choral setting by C.J. Adams

Come away from rush and hurry
to the stillness of God's peace;
from our vain ambition's worry,
come to Christ and find release.

Come away from noise and clamor,
life's demands and frenzied pace;
Come to join the people gathered
here to seek and find God's grace.
In the pastures of God's goodness
we lie down to rest our soul.
From the waters of God's mercy
we drink deeply, are made whole.
At the table of God's presence
all the saints are richly fed.
With the oil of God's anointing
into service we are led.

Come, then children, with your burdens,
life's confusions, fears and pain.
Leave them at the cross of Jesus,
take instead God's loving reign.
Bring your thirsts, for God will quench them,

God alone will satisfy.
All our longings find attainment
when to self we gladly die.

Come away from rush and hurry
to the stillness of God's peace.

SCRIPTURE (Ed Tucker)

John 10:11-18

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² 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. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ 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 (Pastor John)

INTERLUDE *Interlude*
Bob Oehme, organ

by Flor Peeters

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Pastor John)

With boldness, let us offer our prayers
to the shepherd of our souls, saying,
God of goodness and mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the church in every place. . . .
Gather us together and make us one,
one in ministry and mission to the world,
so that there will be one flock, one shepherd.
God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world. . . .
Anoint all leaders with your wisdom
so that they will use their power
to help the poor and defend the vulnerable.
God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community. . . .
Strengthen those who work each day
to heal the sick, welcome the outcasts,
and help sisters and brothers in need.
God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for friends and loved ones. . . .
Comfort all who are suffering;

walk with them through dark valleys
and restore them, body, mind, and soul.
God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, by the power of your Spirit,
help us to keep your commandments
and to love one another with the love of Jesus,
in whose holy name we pray. **Amen.**

BLESSING (Pastor John)
In the name of the good shepherd,
love one another. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE *It Is Well With My Soul* by Douglas E. Wagner, Based on VILLE DU HAVRE
Hand Bell Choir Arranged by Philip P. Bliss
*When peace, like a river, upholds me each day, when sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul".*

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