

Instructions for the Service Over Zoom

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88996626480?pwd=jTpoR1JG5SwrhQQo239aMXSwSaBrg9.1>

Meeting ID: 889 9662 6480

Passcode: 760940

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Please use the chat button to convey your celebrations and your prayer concerns so that we can save them to a file and publish them in the prayer list for the congregation on Monday.

Recording this Service

We will record today's service for members and friends who cannot participate in worship at this hour.

Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 11, 2025 10:00 AM
Rev. Rosemary Dawson, Designated Pastor
David Cavallin, Music Director

PRELUDE

David Cavallin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you

Pastor: Let us welcome one another with the gifts of God's peace

MOMENT OF CENTERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Candy Iwanicki

One: Arise, people of God, greet the One who claims us as his own.

Gather to worship the One who is our Good Shepherd.

All: God awakens us and restores our souls.

Surely God's goodness and mercy are with us here.

One: The Shepherd is calling us to new ventures.

We are invited to a higher quality of life.

All: We will not fear to walk through shadowed valleys.

God's love in Christ is with us everywhere.

One: Come to drink from streams of living water.

Gather to find comfort and rest in this place.

All: Surely God will guide our journey through life.

We will follow Christ, who offers us eternal life.

***HYMN**

"Such Perfect Love"

Black #248

***GATHERING PRAYER**

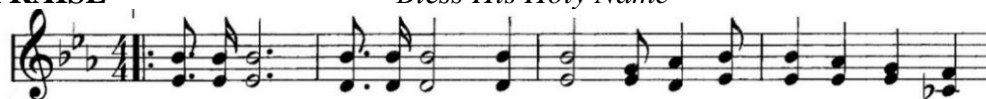
Candy Iwanicki

Loving God, Shepherd of all who put their trust in you, we long for the times when your voice is heard and your will is clear. We long to live as your sheep, to walk with you beside still waters and lie down in green pastures. We long to know your faithful protection and guiding presence. Nourish us now by your Word and Spirit, that we may discover your goodness and mercy in this time together, and then to follow you in the world and share your rich blessings with all people. Amen.

***SONG OF PRAISE**

"Bless His Holy Name"

Blue #13



Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is with - in me, Bless His



ho - ly Name. He has done great things, He has done great



things, He has done great things, Bless His ho - ly Name.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23

Candy Iwanicki

Like most psalms it is difficult to know the background of Psalm 23. What is evident is that this psalm relies heavily on the cultural context in which people knew shepherds and sheep as a lived experience. Beyond the everyday life of a shepherd protecting and providing for their flock, the role and title of shepherd became a designation for a leader's relationship to the people in their charge. Gods and kings (and priests) were called shepherd of their people, and carried rods and staffs as emblems of their office. The title came to have special significance for the God of Israel. To say 'the Lord is my shepherd' invokes all the richness of theological and political backgrounds as well as the pastoral.

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 10:22-30

Rev. Rosemary Dawson

Throughout John's Gospel, responses to Jesus vary widely. Jesus has been in Jerusalem for a while (from Chapter 7), teaching regularly within the temple area. His teaching evokes much discussion concerning his identity, origins, and authority, and results in a division among the people. Some believe that he is the Messiah, and others believe that he is demon-possessed, or worse, a blasphemer who deserves to die. Now, following his claim to be the Good Shepherd he is again questioned. He, in turn, raises up their responsiveness to him, and points out that it is only with the eyes of faith that one can see the truth concerning Jesus.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem.

It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

SERMON

"Plain and Simple"

Rev. Rosemary Dawson

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

David Cavallin

***HYMN**

"Come Teach Us"

Insert

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***Please rise in body or Spirit**

THE 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

*DOXOLOGY

Black #776

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here be - low; Praise Ho - ly Spir - it, Com - fort - er; One God, Tri - une, whom we a - dore. A - men, A - men.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Shepherd God, we thank you for the ways in which you have welcomed us in your love and called us to follow you. May these gifts and our lives embrace others with the good news of your loving-kindness. Amen

*HYMN

"He Leadeth Me"

Blue #461

*COMMON COMMISSION

Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the fainthearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

David Cavallin

***Please rise in body or Spirit**



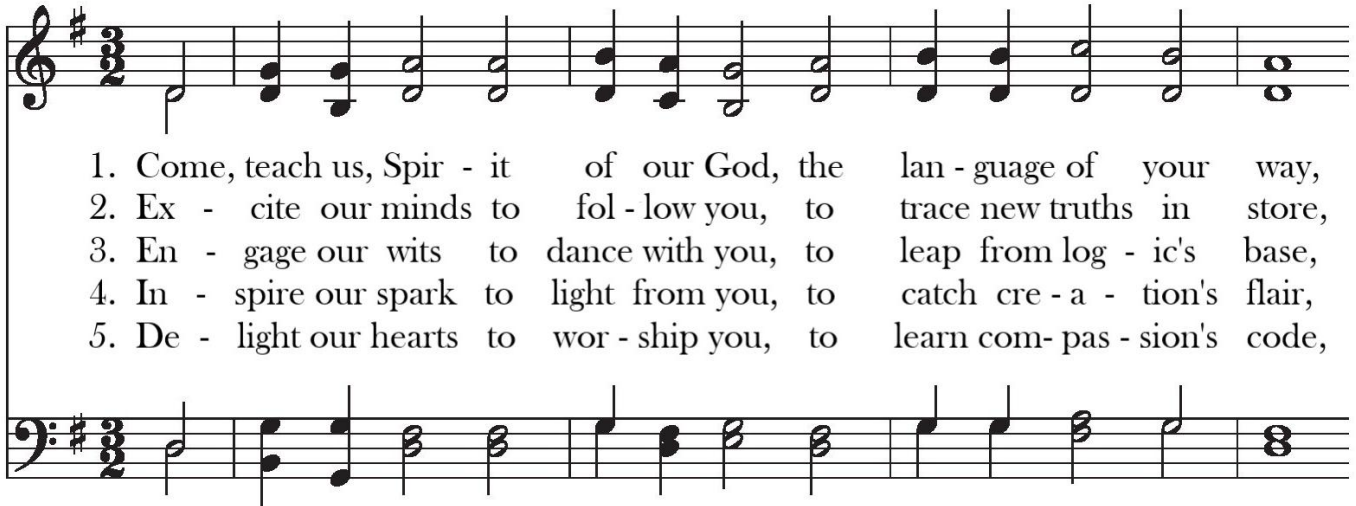
Scan this code using your cell phone camera
Scroll down to click on the Donate button to make an offering

Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God

- Azmon CM

Shirley Erena Murray, 1990

arr. Lowell Mason, 1839



1. Come, teach us, Spir - it of our God, the lan - guage of your way,
2. Ex - cite our minds to fol - low you, to trace new truths in store,
3. En - gage our wits to dance with you, to leap from log - ic's base,
4. In - spire our spark to light from you, to catch cre - a - tion's flair,
5. De - light our hearts to wor - ship you, to learn com - pas - sion's code,



the les - sons that we need to live, the faith for ev - ery day.
new flight paths for our spir - it space, new mar - vels to ex - plore.
to cap - ture in - sight on the wing, to sense your cos - mic grace.
new ar - tis - try to cel - e - brate, new har - mo - nies to dare.
to live in con - text of your love, great teach - er who is God!

**Hot Dogs & Baked Beans
- Free Supper -**

**Wednesday, May 14th
5-6:30PM in Parish Hall
Monetary Donations welcome.**

