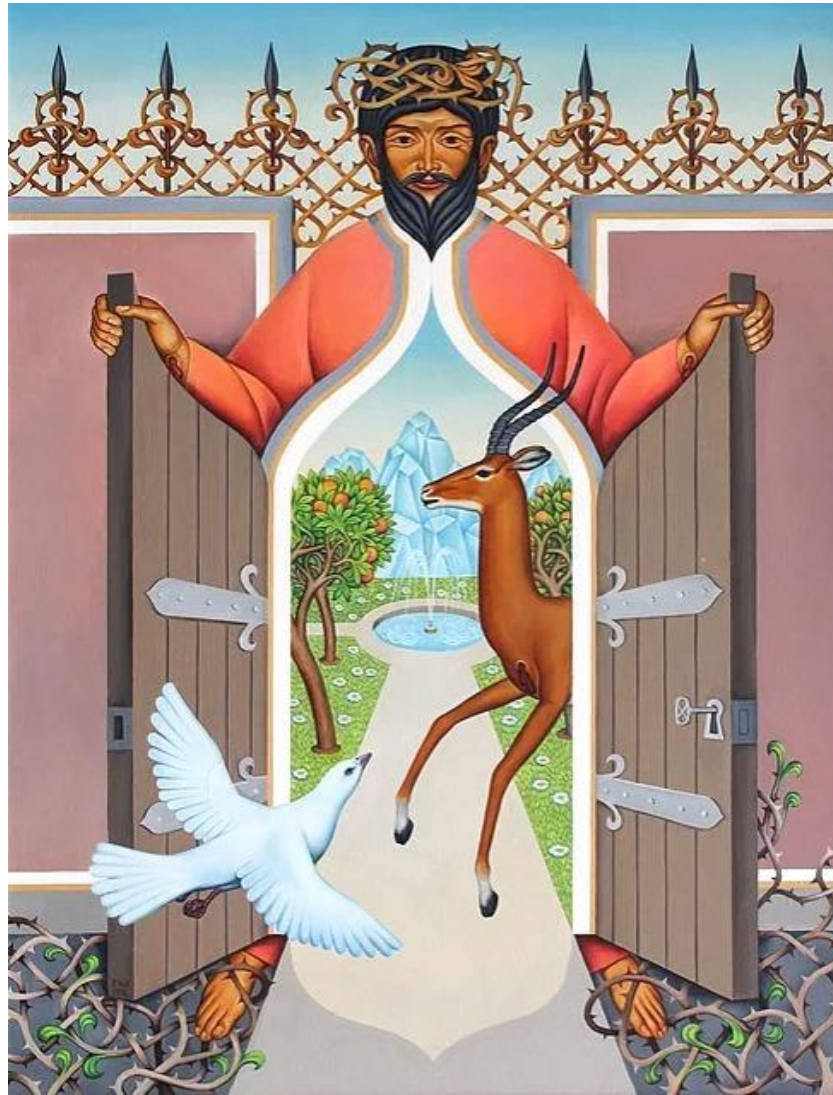


**Peace United Church of Christ
April 26, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Easter
10:30am**



I am the Gate, Peter Koenig

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Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bells

*Call to Worship

from Psalm 23

Guide us like a shepherd, O God,

Fill our hearts with your abundance.

Lead us to green pastures and still waters,

Restore our souls.

Save us from fear, comfort us,

Anoint us with oil and overflow our cups.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives,

Let us dwell in God's house as we worship.

*Song

Earth and All Stars

see back page

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we trust that you love us exactly as we are, and we know that you love us too much to let us stay that way. We want to believe we can make it through this world alone, with no need for one another or for your grace. Forgive us and lead us to salvation: the gate you open for us again and again. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, there is nothing we can do or leave undone that can separate us from God's love.

Through Christ, we are forgiven and set free for new life. Thanks be to God!

*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages

Sending the Children

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,***Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!******Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!******Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!***

Gospel Reading

John 10:1-10

Jessica Olson, reader

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

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

Anthem

*Pie Jesu from Requiem, Gabriel Fauré**Merciful Jesus, Lord,**Grant unto them rest.**Grant them, grant them,**Grant unto them rest,**Eternal rest.*

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song

My Shepherd Is the Living God

#247, *New Century Hymnal*

***My shepherd is the living God, I therefore nothing need;
In pastures fair, near pleasant streams you settle me to feed.
You bring my wandering spirit back when I forsake your ways,
And lead me for your mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace.***

***When I walk through the shades of death, your presence is my stay;
A word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows, your oil anoints my head.***

***The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others come and go-
No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.***

Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sung Amen

Offertory

Bless The Lord, My Soul, Taizé

Cyndi Brown, flute

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen!**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Song

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

#347, *New Century Hymnal*

***Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.***

Refrain:

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

***Christ is able to make us one, at his table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.***

Refrain:

***Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!***

Refrain:

*Benediction

Assisting in Today's Service:
Darlene Leafgren and Warren Post, Ushers

Earth and All Stars

The musical score is written for a three-part setting in 3/4 time, featuring a soprano, alto, and bass line. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each with a corresponding musical staff. The lyrics are: 1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets! 2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals! Sing to the 3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers! 4 Knowl - edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom! Lord a new song! Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing snow - storm! cel - los! Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done work - ers! mem - bers! mar - vel - ous things. We too sing prais - es with a new song!

This lively text was written for the 90th anniversary of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Echoing Psalm 98, it is a prime example of a 20th-century hymn style based on phrases rather than complete sentences. The exuberant tune was created expressly for these words.