

Peace United Church of Christ  
April 21st, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
10:30am



*Parable - The Lost Sheep*, Rev. Cara B. Hochhalter

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Prelude

*Buddy's Strathpey*

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bells

\*Call to Worship (based on *Psalms* 23)

God is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**God leads me to good things, God restores my soul.**

We are the sheep of God's pasture,

**We are members of a sacred flock.**

We are called to dwell in God's house forever,

**Let us welcome all into God's house!**

\*Song

*Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

#252 NCH

***Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need your tender care;  
in your pleasant pastures feed us, or our use your folds prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have brought us, yours we are;  
Blesses Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have brought us, yours we are.***

***We are not 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.***

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

**God, we give you thanks for all the gifts here in this place. We gather as carers, organizers, healers, bakers, card-makers, quilters, protestors, justice-seekers, all of us working to grow your love in the world. Lead us in the way of Jesus, that we might join together in transformation and resurrection. Amen.**

\*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages

Amanda McElray Hunter

Sending the Children

***Goodbye sweet children, it's time to leave this place,  
May our love hold you all with grace.  
Our hearts go with you 'til you come back to this place.  
So we bid you goodbye, goodbye, goodbye.***

Contemporary Reading

*Fall in Love*, Fr. Joseph Whelan, SJ

Nothing is more practical than  
finding God, than  
falling in Love  
in a quite absolute, final way.  
What you are in love with,  
what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.  
It will decide  
what will get you out of bed in the morning,  
what you do with your evenings,  
how you spend your weekends,  
what you read, whom you know,  
what breaks your heart,  
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.  
Fall in Love, stay in love,  
and it will decide everything.

Special music

*The Butterfly Jig*

Scripture Reading

*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."

May these words be to us our light and our life. **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*, John Rutter

Sermon

Song

*We Are Not Our Own*

#564 NCH

***We are not our own. Earth forms us,  
Human leaves on Nature's growing vine,  
Fruit of many generations,  
seeds of life divine.***

***We are not alone. Earth names us:  
past and present, peoples near and far,  
family and friends and strangers  
show us who we are.***

***Through a human life God finds us;  
dying, living, love is fully known,  
and in bread and wine reminds us:  
we are not our own.***

***Therefore let us make thanksgiving,  
and with justice, willing and aware,  
give to earth, and all things living,  
liturgies of care.***

***And if love's encounters lead us  
on a way uncertain and unknown,  
All the saints with prayer surround us:  
We are not alone.***

***Let us be a house of welcome,  
living stone upholding living stone,  
Gladly showing all our neighbors  
we are not our own!***

Community Prayers and 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.**

Offertory

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

Gudrun Wittrak, soloist

\*Doxology adap. Ruth Duck

***Praise God, the Source of life and birth;  
Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;  
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame;  
All glory, honor to God's name!***

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Closing Song

*All My Days*

#34 P&W

*You know my words, before they're said.  
You know my need and I am fed.  
You give me life. You know my ways,  
my strength, my path for all my days,  
my strength, my path for all my days,  
If I should fly beyond the dawn,  
the shadows will not overcome.  
If I lie down in deepest night,  
still you are there, my truth, my light,  
still you are there, my truth, my light.  
Our every thought, each word we say,  
the whole of time, the present day,  
are held within your mighty hand  
too wonderful to comprehend,  
too wonderful to comprehend.  
O mend my heart and free my voice.  
From sin released, I will rejoice.  
O search me now, my spirit cries,  
and let my song of praise arise,  
and let my song of praise arise.*

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

*Cooley's Reel*

Assisting in Today's Service:

David Arnott, fiddle and conductor, Melanie Sever, flute; Tim Churchill, bass;  
Ian Connell, drums; Tres Commer, mandolin  
Laurie Berner, Ellen Shelton, Tom and Christine Day, Ushers  
Cindy Macaulay, Greeter

### **Minnesota Conference UCC Faith Formation & Outdoor Ministries Needs Your Input!**

Please help the Minnesota Conference better support and equip your local congregation's ministry. The Conference needs to hear from you as we assess and reimagine our Faith Formation and Outdoor Ministries.

There are 2 ways to help!

1. Take the survey! Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts and experiences with us. Whether you have participated in several Conference events and gatherings or have never participated, we need to hear from YOU!

To participate, simply click on the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MQD6WJR>

or, scan the QR code:



2. Be part of a Listening Session on Sunday, May 5th, after the 10:30am service. Kevin Brown, Associate Conference Minister of Faith Formation for Children & Youth will be joining us at Peace for a conversation to assess the effectiveness of the UCC's programs and identify areas for improvement. Refreshments are provided! We are looking for 10 participants to join us and give feedback on adult, children and youth programming.

Contact Amanda at [amanda@peaceucc.org](mailto:amanda@peaceucc.org) for more details and to join the listening session!