St. John’s United Church of Christ
10 A.M. Worship  April 25, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Prayer in Preparation
Loving God, we meet in your name, confident that we are known and loved by you. Here we draw close to one another and to you, expecting to be empowered by fresh insights to live as your people. We want to care for one another in life-giving ways. We seek to reach out to those who deny you or suspect us. Help us grow in love that is genuine in its caring and self-sacrifice. We embrace the wholeness you offer and dare to risk acceptance of a healing role for ourselves and this faith community. Equip us for service in this community and beyond. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude  “Sheep May Safely Graze”  J.S. Bach

The Call to Worship
One: With grace flowing, the poet sings the opening lines of the famous prayer, “The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.”
All: We hear the Psalmist’s contentment and wonder about our own.
One: Settled on the ground, with grass tickling their toes, the psalmist rests, “God makes me lie down in green pastures. God leads me beside still waters and restores my soul.”
All: We hear their deep need for rest and wonder about our own.
One: With a deep sigh, the psalmist declares, “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me. You prepare a table before me. You anoint me. My cup overflows.”
All: We recognize their bold courage and wonder about our own.
One: Remembering God’s faithfulness, the psalmist finds words to carry with them, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.”
All: We hear their faithful trust and wonder about our own.
One: Holy Spirit of Rest and Renewal, in this time of worship inspire us with words both ancient and new so that we may find the words that connect us to You.
All: Amen and amen.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ  (Safe waves, head nods and thumbs up, only)
Peace be with you And also with you

Hymn  “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”
(To be “sung” in our heads, not vocally)

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
thy hast bought us, thine we are;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
thy hast bought us, thine we are.

Early let us seek thy favor,
early let us do thy will;
blessed Lord and only Savior,
with thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
thy hast loved us, love us still;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
thy hast loved us, love us still.

For the Child in Us All  Katie Sternhagen

Scripture Lesson  John 10:11-18
This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God

Special Music
“Amazing Grace”
arr. Amy Camie

Sermon
“Know Any Shepherds?”
Pastor Lisa

Hymn
“If You Will Trust in God to Guide You”
(To be “sung” in our heads, not vocally)

If you will trust in God to guide you and hope in God through all your ways, God will give strength, whate’er betide you, and bear you through the evil days. Who trusts in God’s unchanging love builds on the rock that will not move.

Sing, pray, and keep God’s ways unswerving; so do your own part faithfully, and trust God’s word; though undeserving, you’ll find God’s promise true to be. God never will forsake in need the soul that trusts in God indeed.

Pastoral Prayer

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

We Share Our Blessings with Others
Thank you for being so generous in your care of St. John’s UCC and its mission, through your participation and giving. Your stewardship makes a difference. You may make your offering several ways including online, by text at 833-502-0657, or mail. We are grateful for your support.

*Prayer of Dedication
Loving God, bless these gifts and all the ways in which we give. May each of our gifts be a part of co-creating and tending to the love, safety, belonging, and dignity. You envision for the world. Amen.

Hymn
“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”
(To be “sung” in our heads, not vocally)

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Charge & Blessing

Postlude
“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”
arr. Rice
Amy Camie is a certified clinical musician, professional harpist, holistic research developer, speaker, recording artist, composer, and author. Her music is used throughout the country in hospitals, cancer centers and hospices as well as for general relaxation and stress reduction. Her inspired music relaxes the body, calms the mind, and gently touches the soul.

For more information, visit: www.AmyCamie.com