

# Grace United Church of Christ

May 3, 2020

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Online Worship

## GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Psalm 23)*

Let us pray these familiar words together:

Jesus, you are our shepherd.  
We shall never want.

You make us lie down in green pastures;  
you lead us beside the still waters.  
You restore our souls.

You guide us in the paths of righteousness for  
your name's sake.  
Even though we may walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death,  
we fear no evil, for you, Christ, comfort us.

Jesus has prepared a table for us  
in the presence of our foes;  
Jesus has anointed us with the oil of salvation;  
our cup runs over!

Surely, goodness and mercy will follow us  
all the days of our lives,  
And we will dwell in the house  
of our Holy Savior forever and ever. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN    Savior, Like a Shepherd Guide Us

### INVOCATION

Incarnate God,  
You are the one who comes to us in Jesus  
Christ.

Holy One,  
You are the one who comes to us in the Holy  
Spirit.  
Sovereign of Earth and Heaven,  
You are the one who calls us to recognize you  
today and every day  
As splendid *Mystery*.  
Gather our hearts and minds this day.  
Kindle our God-consciousness.  
Let us worship you in awe and wonder!

### RESPONSE

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**  
Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**

FIRST LESSON    John 10:1-10

### A TIME FOR OUR CHILDREN

CENTERING SONG    Sanctuary  
Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
Pure and holy, tried and true;  
With thanksgiving I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for you.

SECOND LESSON    Acts 2:42-47

MESSAGE    *Perspective*

### OFFERING

Invitation  
Dedication

### MORNING PRAYERS

Pastoral Prayer  
Prayers of the People  
The Lord's Prayer

SENDING HYMN    Blessed Assurance

## COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

### Scriptures for May 3, 2020

#### Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds<sup>[a]</sup> to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home<sup>[a]</sup> and ate their food with glad and generous<sup>[a]</sup> hearts, <sup>47</sup>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.

#### John 10:1-10

“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. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever

enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

### **Gathering Hymn: Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us**

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 your 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.

### **Sending Hymn: Blessed Assurance**

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight!  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels descending, bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.