

## The Fourth Sunday of Easter April 25, 2021

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Julie Garber

### **PRELUDE**                    **Karen Mohr**

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### **RINGING OF THE BELLS**

### **WELCOME**

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

The Lord is our Shepherd, our guide.

### **In Him, our true desires are satisfied**

The Lord calms us and restores our souls.

### **He shows us how to live in the good days and the hard days.**

Our Lord is always present to comfort us

### **He grants us goodness and mercy all the days of our lives.**

### **And we dwell in the house of our Lord forever.**

Praise be to the promises of God.

### **THE VIRTUAL CHOIR**

*“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 our way;  
Keep you 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 you 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.

### **SCRIPTURE READING** 1 John 3:16-24

By this we know love, that he laid  
down his life for us; and we ought to lay  
down our lives for the brethren. But if any  
one has the world's goods and sees his  
brother in need, yet closes his heart against  
him, how does God's love abide in him?  
Little children, let us not love in word or  
speech but in deed and in truth. By this we  
shall know that we are of the truth, and  
reassure our hearts before him.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

By these words and the promises  
they hold, we do know love, God. We know  
the Easter story, we know of your life on  
earth, your teachings, your miracles, your  
compassion and your eternal presence  
beyond our earthly lives. On this day and in  
this worship, open our minds and hearts to  
sustain and nurture the love already in our  
lives and to realize new ways to live love. By

your grace through Christ, grant us the courage to truly be "The Children of God". Amen.

**GOSPEL READING** John 10: 11-18

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it 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 again; this charge I have received from my Father.

**MEDITATION.** Julie Garber  
"I know my own and my own know me"

**PASTORAL PRAYER**  
**THE LORD'S PRAYER.**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**WE OFFER OUR GIFTS**  
**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Honor and glory be yours Holy God, as we offer who we are and what we have, to your work here on earth. Guide our lives and our gifts of money and time to do the work of love, love in our community and beyond our community. Bless these gifts. Amen

**A BLESSING AS WE LEAVE WORSHIP**  
**POSTLUDE** Karen Mohr

**Announcements**

Welcome to our service of worship! We are glad that you have joined us in person, through the internet or on the radio. We pray that you will experience the peace of Christ's presence.

10AM Sunday in person and online worship service. Masks and social distancing required. *Please do not come if you feel ill.*

11AM Sunday radio broadcast on WCCN 98.5 FM; 1370 AM

**We would like to thank a faithful listener for sponsoring this week's radio broadcast.**

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