

INTER-FAITH CHAPEL WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday April 21, 2024

*Worship begins with the prelude. Please cease your conversation with others and prepare yourself for worship. Relax your body; quiet the inner dialogue of your mind; be open and receptive to God's Spirit in your midst.
Lastly, silence your cell phone as you begin your time with God.*

SILENT MEDITATION

In his beautiful book, "I Shall Not Want," Robert Ketchum tells of a Sunday School teacher who asked her group of children if anyone could quote the entire Twenty-third Psalm. A four-and-a-half year old girl was among those who raised their hands. A bit skeptical, the teacher asked if she could really quote the entire psalm. The little girl came to the front of the rostrum, faced the class, made a perky little bow, and said: "The Lord is my shepherd, that's all I want." She bowed again and went and sat down. That may well be the greatest interpretation ever heard.

- Robert Ketchum

PRELUDE

The Lord Is My Shepherd, Psalm 23

Clay

Dr. Holly Oberle, Director of Music and Rev. Glenda Clay

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dr. Ramonia L. Lee
Minister of Congregational Life

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

We light this candle as a symbol of our ongoing commitment to peace in our world.

INTROIT

We Have Come Into This House/ He is Lord

The Inter-Faith Gospel Choir under the direction of Rev. Glenda Clay

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are led,

PEOPLE: Beside still waters.

Leader: We are fed,

PEOPLE: At a huge banquet table.

Leader: We are accompanied,

PEOPLE: Through the valleys of shadow and death.

Leader: We are guided,

PEOPLE: To do justice and righteousness.

Leader: We are anointed,

PEOPLE: Blessed and filled.

Leader: We sing,

PEOPLE: Of God's goodness and mercy.

ALL: This is our God! Let's worship God together!

INVOCATION

† OPENING HYMN *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Diane Hugger

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

UNISON

O most gracious and loving God, we know that You are our shepherd. We know the 23rd Psalm by heart. Sometimes it comforts us in times of personal trouble. But too often we are not empowered by Your words. We are still afraid. We are afraid to help others because they might hurt us. We walk by the stranger on the street. We don't even tell our friends about Your love and care. Help us to believe that Your goodness and mercy are with us all the days of our lives - in everything we say and do. This we ask in the name of Your son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

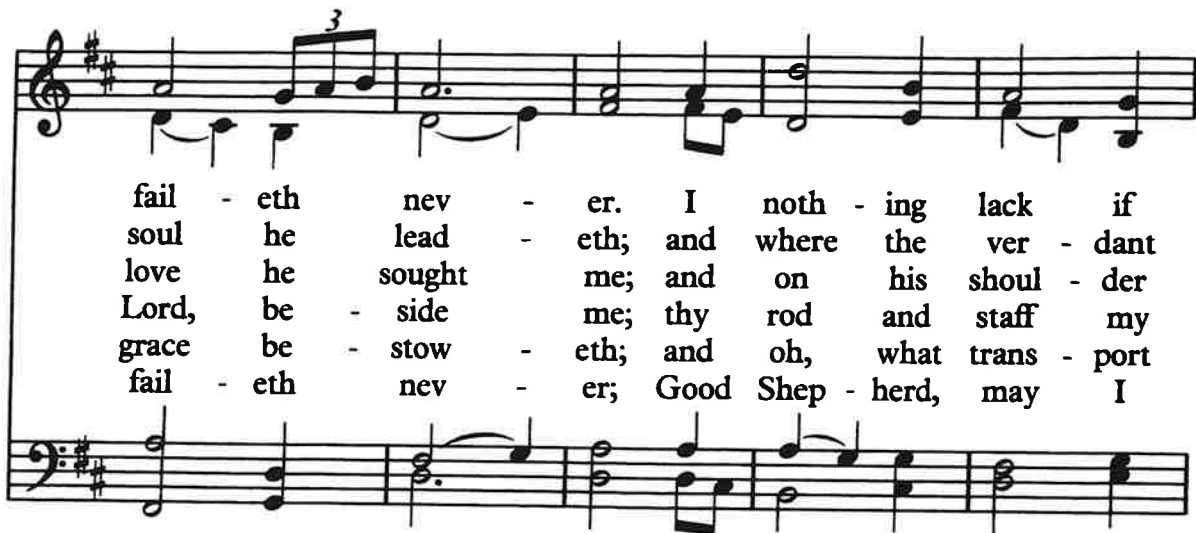
† You may stand in body or in spirit.

Music used by permission, CCLI #1683224

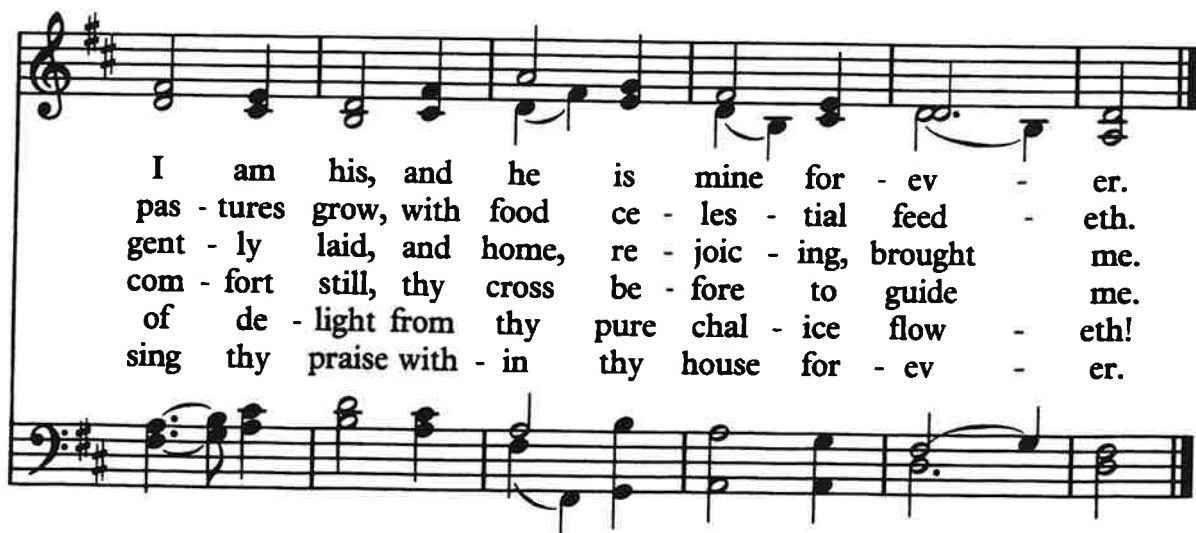
The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1. The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 3. Per - verse and fool - ish, oft I strayed, but yet in
 4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear
 5. Thou spreadst a ta - ble in my sight; thy unc - tion
 6. And so through all the length of days, thy good - ness



fail - eth nev - er. I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth; and where the ver - dant
 love he sought me; and on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me; thy rod and staff my
 grace be - stow - eth; and oh, what trans - port
 fail - eth nev - er; Good Shep - herd, may I



I am his, and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still, thy cross be - fore to guide me.
 of de - light from thy pure chal - ice flow - eth!
 sing thy praise with - in thy house for - ev - er.

WORDS: Henry W. Baker, 1868 (Ps. 23)
 MUSIC: Irish Melody; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

ST. COLUMBA
 87.87

† AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: Let us stand as we are able and join in an affirmation of faith.

**ALL: We believe in God, creator of all things,
Ruler of all that is and all that is to come.
God is transforming the world into the place of God's justice and mercy.**

**We follow Jesus, who taught and healed,
Who died and rose, revealing God's abundant grace.
He sent disciples out into the world to heal,
To proclaim the good news of your grace,
And to participate in the Reign of God in all that we do.
He reigns in love over all Creation,
And holds all accountable to their faithfulness to God's rule of grace.**

**We rely upon the unfailing grace of God,
The presence of the Holy Spirit,
The community of the church as the Body of Christ,
The unity of all believers, the power of forgiveness,
The reality of resurrection and the alluring blessing of eternal life.**

**Therefore we devote ourselves to lives of daily prayer,
Study, service and reflection,
Following Jesus as our Master,
For the sake of the transformation of the world by the grace of God. Amen.**

† GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 23

UNISON

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters, He restoreth my soul.
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his names sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

John 10:11-18

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

UNISON

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

How Great Is Our God

The Inter-Faith Gospel Choir under the direction of Rev. Glenda Clay

SERMON

“Do You Know the Good Shepherd?”

Dr. Ramonia L. Lee

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Until I Found the Lord

The Inter-Faith Gospel Choir under the direction of Rev. Glenda Clay

† DOXOLOGY

(Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

† CLOSING HYMN

Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd ... and shall gently lead those that are with young — Isaiah 40:11 KJV



1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, Much we need Thy ten - der care;
2. We are Thine; do Thou be - friend us, Be the guard - ian of our way;
3. Thou hast prom - ised to re - ceive us, Poor and sin - ful though we be;
4. Ear - ly let us seek Thy fa - vor; Ear - ly let us do Thy will;



In Thy pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, For our use Thy folds pre - pare:
Keep Thy flock, from sin de - fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray:
Thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:
Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, With Thy love our be - ings fill:



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear, O hear us when we pray;
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to Thee;
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear, O hear us when we pray.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to Thee.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

† RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

Leader: The Lord is our shepherd; we want for nothing.

PEOPLE: We hunger and thirst no more.

Leader: The Lord gives rest and comfort to our souls.

PEOPLE: God keeps us in perfect peace.

Leader: The Lord sustains us in the midst of trouble.

PEOPLE: Our lives overflow with God's love and grace.

Leader: Goodness and mercy will surely follow us always.

PEOPLE: And we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever!

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the world.

PEOPLE: Amen.

† BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Tune: Ar Hyd Y Nos

“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”

POSTLUDE *Recessional on “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”* Young
Dr. Holly Oberle, Director of Music

PARTING THOUGHT

In these familiar words, O God, speak to us once again of the mystery of Your grace and joy. Remind us that we are not alone, for we have a Shepherd who continually watches over us, eager to give us all we need for our own flourishing and the flourishing of the entire human community. Quicken our hearts and minds, that we might respond to Your invitation of peace and abundance. For the sake of Christ, our Shepherd, we pray. Amen.

THE LORD IS MY

shepherd

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us today! We are a congregation that has its doors open to all as we seek to share the love of God and the joy of life through caring, outreach, and worship. If you are a visiting with us today, please consider signing our *Visitor Register* and be sure to pick up an Inter-Faith Chapel mug as our small gift.

GETTING YOUR LIFE IN ORDER

A workshop on end-of-life issues is being offered by The Inter-Faith Chapel on **Tuesday, April 23rd from 9:30 AM – 12:00 Noon**. Come and hear presentations from professionals offering resources to help organize your legal, medical, and financial concerns. Topics will include financial planning, memorial/funeral service planning, health care instructions, and other important areas. You can purchase a resource notebook for \$17.00. If you would like to attend, please register by calling the Chapel office on Monday, April 22. There are still spaces available.

CENTERING PRAYER

You are invited to join with others on **Wednesday, April 24th at 6:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall to “*Be still and know God*” as we learn about and participate contemplative forms of prayer. Spiritual Director, Bertie Knisely facilitates this wonderful time of various prayer practices that are sure to deepen your personal spiritual life. Please register ahead of time by calling The Chapel office or emailing Bertie bertiek@moravian.edu.

PRAYER SEMINAR

We are pleased to announce that Rev. Dr. Tim Bonner will be teaching a class on “*The Essentials of Prayer*” on **Monday, April 29th at 10:00 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. This seminar will examine the Biblical models and teachings on prayer from both the Old and New Testaments. To register for this seminar, please call The Chapel Office at 301-598-5312 by April 24th.