



*"I am the gate for the sheep...
I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." - John 10:7, 10*

3rd Sunday of Easter
First United Church of Christ, Northfield
**An Open and Affirming, Just Peace,
Immigrant-Welcoming Congregation**

April 23, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [Virtual Visitor Card](#).

Prelude

Exsultate, jubilate
Carolyn Flaten, soprano

Wolfgang A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Rejoice and resound with joy, you blessed souls, and sing sweet songs;
in response to your singing let the heavens sing forth with me.

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Music

Jesus Is Risen from the Grave

John Bell (1989)

One: All:

Je-sus is ri-sen from the grave, Je-sus is ri-sen from the grave,
Je - sus is ri - sen from the grave, al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The first staff is for the 'One:' part, and the second is for the 'All:' part. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Call to Worship

adapted from Steve Garnaas-Holmes

One: The Beloved knows you
and calls your name—not the name everyone says—
but the name whose saying brings you to life
as surely as God brought Light into being
by calling its name.

**Many: The gentle shepherd knows our hurts and fears,
the wounds and frights that bind our will,
the bonds that bend us from our beauty.**

One: The Beloved knows
our struggling to walk, to please the mighty ones, to stay upright,
and understands and forgives our stumbling tries
to be ourselves in a treacherous world.

**Many: The Beloved goes ahead of us into our own beauty,
into the serene meadow of God's green presence.**

One: May we listen for that voice, for the shepherd
who does not point, but leads.

**Many: Let us follow that one, whose deepest delight
is to give us life, and give it abundantly.**

Opening Hymn

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

#230 (St. Kevin)

Verse 1: Come you faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness;
God has brought all Israel
into joy from sadness;
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters;
Led them with unmoistened foot
through the Red Sea waters.

Verse 2: Spring has dawned on earth today;
Christ has burst from prison,
And from three days' sleep in death
as the sun has risen;
All the winter of our sins,
long and gray, is flying
From the light, to whom we give
laud and praise undying.

Verse 3: Now the joyous season, bright
with the day of splendor,
With the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joys to render;
Comes to glad Jerusalem
who with true affection
Welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesus' resurrection.

Verse 4: Neither might the gates of death,
nor the tomb's dim portal,
Nor the watchers, nor the seal
hold you as a mortal;
But today amid the twelve
you still stand, bestowing
Peace and joy which evermore
passes human knowing.

Time with Children

**Let the children come unto me, for theirs is the realm of God.
All who believe must become like a child; theirs is the realm of God.**

Statement of Commitment: Open and Affirming

**First United Church of Christ of Northfield, Minnesota is an Open and Affirming church.
We covenant with God and one another to work together to make our church open to
and affirming of all regardless of gender, gender identity or expression, age, economic
or marital status, race, physical or mental ability, cultural heritage, or sexual**

orientation. We will seek to strengthen, encourage, comfort, and affirm each other as we strive together and individually to understand and experience God’s unconditional love.

Anthem

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Alice Parker (1990)

My shepherd will supply my need;
Jehovah is his name.
In pastures green he makes me feed,
beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back
when I forsake his ways
And leads me, for his mercy’s sake, in
paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of
death thy presence is my stay;
One word of thy supporting breath
drives all my fears away.

Thy hand in sight of all my foes doth
still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows,
thine oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend
me all my days;
O may thy house be my abode and all
my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest while
others go and come;
No more a stranger nor a guest, but
like a child at home.

—Isaac Watts (1674-1748), from Psalm 23:1-6

Scripture

John 10:1-10

Mary Caroline Henry and flock

Sermon

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Prayer Hymn

God Is My Shepherd

#479 (Brother James’ Air)

(the choir sings verse 1; join in on verse 2-5)

V1: God is my shepherd, I’ll not want,
I feed in pastures green.
God grants me rest and bids me drink
from waters calm and clean.
Through daily tasks, I’m blessed and led
by One I have not seen.

V2: Restored to life each morning new,
I rise up from the dust
to follow God whose presence gives me
confidence and trust.
I praise the name of God today;
in God I put my trust.

V3: When I must pass through shadowed
vale, where loss and death await,
I will not fear for God is there,
my shepherd strong and great,
Whose rod and staff will comfort me
and all my fears abate.

V4: No enemy can overcome,
no power on earth defeat
the ones anointed by God's grace

and fed with manna sweet.
My cup is filled and overflows
as I my Savior greet.

V5: Goodness and mercy all my days
will surely follow me;
and where God reigns in heaven and earth,
my dwelling place will be.
My shepherd blesses, cares, and leads
through all eternity.

The Prayers *(All joining worship online are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.)*

Prayer Response

One: As your spirit moved upon the waters,

All: God, let your spirit move in us.

Prayer of Jesus *(You are invited to speak the words most meaningful to you, or follow with this version):*

Our God, 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing Our Gifts

Offertory

Christo resurgenti

François Couperin (1668-1733)

Let the heavens rejoice in Christ's resurrection and triumph. Alleluia.

Faith has been victorious and death has been overcome; let all rejoice. Alleluia.

Prayer of Thanks

Mary Petrina Boyd

God of love, you abide with us; you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways. Out of gratitude for your care, we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of caring, that all may feast at the table of abundance, walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

#82 (Ar Hyd y Nos)

Verse 1: 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.

V2: Go, my children, fed and nourished,
closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you,
here with tender comfort stilled you;
Go, my children, fed and nourished,
joyful and free.

Benediction

Postlude

Alleluia
from Exsultate, jubilate

Wolfgang A. Mozart

We're so glad you worshiped here today!

Please join us for coffee and conversation in the Assembly Room after worship.

Thanks to this week's leaders:

Ushers: Lois Langerak, Ed Langerak, Mandy Everhart, Carl Henry, Cyrus Kirby

Digital Greeter: Elise Eslinger

Scripture Flock of Sheep: Elliot Davis, Henry Davis, Greta Gottfried, Sonja Hoffman, Joshua McNeil-Maddox, Emma Ring, Calvin Steinberg, Leo Steinberg, Winston Steinberg, Vince Turek

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Cover Photo by Rev. Jeni Grangaard, "A shepherdess minds the flock. This is the lot that abuts our home in Beit Safafa, Jerusalem."

This Week at First UCC

Sunday, April 23

9:15 a.m. Faith Formation
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
11:45 p.m. ONA Presentation
6:00 p.m. Evening Gathering Worship

Tuesday, April 25

6:30 p.m. Bells Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 26

5:30 p.m. WFFF

7:00 p.m. Senior Choir

Thursday, April 27

7:00 p.m. NA Meeting (Big Room)
7:30 p.m. Council Meeting

Sunday, April 30

9:15 a.m. Faith Formation
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
6:00 p.m. Evening Gathering Worship

TODAY: Open and Affirming Presentation

Please join us today at 11:45 a.m. for an important discussion on Transgender issues. Matt Lewellyn-Otten from OutFront Minnesota will lead and present. He will cover gender terms (like non-binary and gender fluid) as well as offer an intro into queer theology. This event is sponsored by First UCC's Open and Affirming Team. This forum is aimed mostly at adults. However we ask parents to consider the value of attending for their teens. Please get refreshments and then come back into the sanctuary for the discussion.

Meals on Wheels (MoW)

MoW needs volunteers during May 1-13! If you are interested in volunteering for this important mission, please sign up by going to the church website (under *Community Service*). If you have any questions, please email Annie Kramer at anniekramer@charter.net and see The Chronicle for more information. Thank you!

A Note from ISAIAH

Urge your MN Senator and Representative to finalize Paid Family and Medical Leave legislation which covers all workers in the state. Find your representative and their contact information at www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/. Questions about legislation or voicing your views? Email isaiah@firstucc.org.

Creation Care Eco-Info: Factoids from *A Walk Around the Block* by Spike Carlsen (2020)

Americans are about 6% of the world's population, but generate 25% of the garbage. Americans use an average of 700 plastic bags in a year, and Danes use about 4. A mile of roadside in the U.S. has an average of 6,000+ pieces of trash (but the rate is declining).

Scholarships for Girls in Togo

Nalongue Cogan is hosting a gala at Ruth's on Stafford at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 13th, to raise funds to send 10 girls to College Monfant in Togo, Africa. Dinner reservations are \$25/adult and \$10/student with a live auction and entertainment. If you're interested in attending, please register at collegemonfant.org. Have questions? Contact Gina Washburn at 507-210-8270 or at washburng@hotmail.com.

Nine-to-Dine 2023-24

By popular demand, it's time to consider signing up for Nine to Dine. Nine to Dine is a planned potluck with the goal to meet new folks! Each group (consisting of 7-10 people) takes turns meeting in each other's homes or other convenient locations. Over the course of a year, each individual/couple is expected to take a turn hosting - which means each group will gather 4-5 times. If you'd like to participate, please send your name(s), email address, and a phone number to Linda Wagenbach at ljwagenba@gmail.com by **May 20**. Linda will send you more information as she plans. More information will also be coming in next week's Chronicle. We hope you'll join us - Meet, Eat, Enjoy! Questions? Contact Linda at 507-649-0282.

Join Us & Become a New Member!

May is a busy month of welcoming new members to our church! On May 7, a New Member Orientation session will be held at 11:45 a.m. following the worship service. New Member Sunday will occur two weeks later on Sunday, May 21, during worship at 10:30 a.m. We hope those of you who have not "officially" become members of First UCC yet will plan to join us! For more information or to let us know you'll be attending, please contact Jean Haslett, Membership Team Chair, at hasletts66@yahoo.com or at 507-650-0753.

Welcome to Worship at First UCC!

We are an Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this morning. Please let us know you're here by sharing your information in a welcome pad.

Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Worship is also live-streamed each week on Zoom and YouTube. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we're glad to have you here!

Giving to the Church

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. You may give online by visiting firstucc.org and clicking on the "Give" button, or you may place your gift in the offering plate, or send in your gifts via mail.

News & Announcements

Keep up to date with all of the latest news and upcoming events! Subscribe to The Chronicle, First UCC's weekly e-newsletter, at firstucc.org, and find First UCC on Facebook and Instagram. Past issues of The Chronicle are available at firstucc.org.

First UCC Leadership & Staff

Ministers: All the people

Moderator: Gary Carlson

Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Maddox

Associate Minister: Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Director of Music: Chris Brunelle

Organist: Theo Wee

Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator: Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

Office Manager & Director of Communications: Kate Kvasnak

Finance Manager: Pippa Younger

Sexton: Mark Fischer

Audio Visual Technician: Brynn Artley