

Sunday May 8, 2022

Prelude and Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord is our shepherd; we shall not want.

People: God is our shepherd, and we are the sheep of God's pasture.

Leader: God restores our souls and then leads us down paths of justice and mercy.

People: Even when those paths take us through dark valleys, we fear no evil.

Leader: The Lord prepares a table for us, larger than we can imagine. The welcome is wider than we dare hope. Even in the presence of our enemies, God makes us one and restores us to each other.

People: The Lord is our shepherd, who provides for our need. Our cups overflow; goodness and mercy will follow us, all the days of our lives.

Leader: In goodness and mercy, let us gather in the house of the Lord to worship, where we may dwell our whole lives long.

*Hymn #252: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Prayer of Confession

God, we confess that we often let hopelessness have too much power over our lives.

In the face of crisis, our faith has frequently faltered.

In the midst of calamity, our fearlessness has faded.

In the presence of tribulation, our worry has weakened our ability to act justly.

Help our unbelief, O God!

Bring us back to you, Great Redeemer.

Remind us of the unfailing treasure that is in your love and care for all of creation—

For your grace is sufficient, from the valley of death to the tables you've prepared for us.

Embolden us, again, and revive our spirits.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Grace

Friends, hear the Good News: God believes in us even when our belief in God is challenged. God's grace and mercy abounds, and in God and Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

(For those in the sanctuary please remain in your seats as you turn to one another and by word and gesture that is comfortable to you, greet one another. For those in remote locations be aware that you too are included in the peace that Christ gives us all.)

Response Hymn #236

Reading from the book of Acts: John 10: 22-30

David Alexander

Anthem

Young Disciple's Time

Reading from the Psalms: Psalm 23

Sermon: "The Lord IS My Shepherd"

***Hymn #479:** "God Is My Shepherd"

The Community at Prayer

(Joys and Concerns, Prayer for the People, Lord's Prayer)

Prayer Response

Offertory

We believe in the God of justice and righteousness, and God believes in us to carry forth the mission of loving and caring for community. Let us now share our gifts and resources so that we may continue to walk humbly with God and with neighbors.

(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through an offering plate as you enter or leave the sanctuary, through mailing your gift to the church office or through signing up for electronic giving through our website.)

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

Prayer of Dedication

We dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the fortification of the beloved community. Let these gifts do justice in the world. Let them be a sign of our belief in the God who saves, heals, and sets free. Let these gifts, and the works of our hands and feet, be a blessing to all in need.

***Hymn #248:** "Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows"

***Commissioning and Blessing**

The Call to Worship for this service was written by Marci Auld Glass. Other parts of the liturgy were written by Rev. Mia M. McClain, Associate Minister at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC and a member of the Southern Conference UCC.