



**March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday in Lent**

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Pastor Larry

Prelude

There is a Green Hill

Hughes

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

***Call to Worship**

Susan Whitman

Leader: Listen for the voice of the Good Shepherd!

People: God, help us to hear the Shepherd's voice and follow him.

Leader: Refuse to listen to the hireling or the wolf!

People: Hirelings don't care, and wolves snatch and scatter.

Leader: Refuse to follow bandits and thieves!

People: The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy, but Jesus came to give us an abundant life!

Leader: Listen for the voice of the Good Shepherd!

All: Today, we turn our hearts and our attention to the Good Shepherd who loves the sheep and knows each one of us by name.

***Opening Prayer**

Susan Whitman

God of lost sheep, find us, re-route us.

Quiet now our wandering minds,

O God, that we may hear Your voice.

As we pass places of darkness, seasons of isolation,
periods of sickness and gloom,

Good Shepherd-God, You are somehow both with us
and walking before us.

When we lose our way, may we experience the thrill,
the joy of being found.

Brace our hearts to trust and follow,
To see, even in troubled times,
that our cup runneth over.

Anticipating the good that is in store for us, O God,
And seeing anew, the blessings of Your love. Amen.

*** Hymn**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

UMH 127

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***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Susan Whitman

God calls us to love one another as God loves us. In this we know the truth of Christ's peace.
Share signs of Christ's peace with one another.

Children's Time

Pastor Larry

Ministry of Music

He My Shepherd Is

Dyck

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Understanding

All Praying

Susan Whitman

**Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed.
Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let all other words slip
away. May there be one voice we hear today – the voice of truth and grace. Amen.**

John 10:1-21

10 “Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. **2** The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. **3** The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. **5** But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.” **6** Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

7 Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. **8** All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. **9** I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.^[a] They will come in and go out, and

find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

¹⁹ The Jews who heard these words were again divided. ²⁰ Many of them said, “He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?”

²¹ But others said, “These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn

In the Garden

UMH 314

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Sermon

“The Good Shepherd”

Pastor Larry

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;*
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Morning Prayer

Pastor Larry

The Lord's Prayer

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Offertory Invitation

Susan Whitman

The Shepherd cares for us, providing all that we need in abundance. The Shepherd calls us to love one another in truth and action. May our gifts reflect our trust in the Shepherd's care. May our offerings show our willingness to love one another.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Over the Stars

Abt

**Doxology*

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

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 the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication*

Susan Whitman

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.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

***Closing Hymn**

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

UMH 381

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***Benediction**

Pastor Larry

Choral Benediction

Shalom to You

UMH 666

Shalom to you now, shalom my friends.

May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.

In all your living and through your loving,

Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

Postlude

Jesus, Name Above All Names

Hearn

GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.*

*2. Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.*

*3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.*

IN THE GARDEN

*I come to the garden alone
while the dew is still on the roses,
and the voice I hear falling on my ear
the Son of God discloses.*

Refrain:

***And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own;
and the joy we share as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.***

*2. He speaks, and the sound of his voice,
is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
and the melody that he gave to me
within my heart is ringing. (Refrain)*

*3. I'd stay in the garden with him
though the night around me be falling,
but he bids me go; thru the voice of woe
his voice to me is calling. (Refrain)*

SAVIOR LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use thy folds prepare.*

*Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.*

*2. We are thine, thou dost befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!*

*Hear, O hear us when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Hear, O hear us when we pray.*

*3. Thou hast promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
thou hast mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
We will early turn to thee.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
We will early turn to thee.*

*4. Early let us seek thy favor,
early let us do thy will;
blessed Lord and only Savior,
with thy love our bosoms fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast loved us, love us still.*