

St. John United Church of Christ
“In Christ We Live, Celebrate, & Serve”

April 26, 2026

4th Sunday of Easter (A)

Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor

David R. Ekstrand, Dir. of Music

9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship

9:30 Sunday School for Children

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Large print bulletins are available from the Ushers.

Bold italic denotes congregation reads or sings.

*Denotes all who are able, please stand.

WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH A SMILE AND WAVE

*RESPONSE ***“The Day of Resurrection!”*** Vs. 3 #298

Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth its song begin!

The world resound in triumph, and all that is therein;

Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend;

For Christ the Lord has risen, our Joy that has no end.

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Psalm 23

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER¹

The Lord is our shepherd.

We are Christ’s sheep.

The shepherd shelters us in green pastures.

In Christ we dwell secure.

The shepherd nourishes us and restores our souls.

Christ is our shepherd and gate to the Most High.

Let us unite in prayer.

Loving Shepherd, you call us as your own. When danger is close at hand, you gather us to yourself, that we might dwell secure. When evil surrounds us, you give us a home and a safe place to rest. When foes threaten our fellowship, you

rescue us from peril. Restore our souls, Gentle Savior, and lead us in the paths of righteousness, that we may walk in the ways of goodness and mercy, all the days of our lives. Amen.

*HYMN **“The Lord My Shepherd Guards Me Well”** #73

*RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH²

We believe in God, Creator of beauty, source of every breath, foundation of every movement.

God leads us beside still waters, makes us lie down in green splendor and lets nature heal and restore us.

We believe in Jesus, the risen Christ, who loved the least, the last and the lost.

Christ loves us, calls us by name and cleanses us from our sins.

We believe in the Spirit, who gathers us into a rainbow-colored community, gives us a song to sing, and prepares a feast for us all.

We live as God’s people, filled with everlasting hope and showered with blessing.

SUNG RESPONSE³ *Gentle Shepherd* pg. 10 of bulletin

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 23 pg. 474

ANTHEM *The Gentle Stranger* Amen

GOSPEL LESSON John 10:1-10 pg. 97

MEDITATION

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

*HYMN **“All the Way My Savior Leads Me”** #505

PASTORAL PRAYER & UNISON LORD’S PRAYER

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 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.

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *We All Are One in Mission*

*RESPONSE ***“Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”*** Vs. 4 #289
***Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:
Alleluia to the Savior who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia to the Triune Majesty!***

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹

Shepherd of our souls, we thank you for the love that flows through our lives. May this love also flow through these gifts. Work through this offering and through our lives, that your community of love may be established here on earth for all the sheep of your fold. Amen.

*HYMN ***“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”*** #440

*POSTLUDE *We Are God’s People*

¹Adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026*. Copyright © 2025 by Abingdon Press.

²Adapted from *Sourcebook of Worship Resources, Volume 2*. Copyright © 1996 by Communication Resources, Inc.

³“Gentle Shepherd” Words and Music: William J. Gaither. Used with permission CCLI License #133401

We thank Mike Seibold for serving as liturgist, and Rae Ellen Vogeler for serving as greeter.

There are open spots for greeters for the next few months. Please take a look at availability and sign up!

The **bulletins** are given in loving memory of Joyce Valbert on her April 25th birthday by her “birthday buddy”.

The **altar centerpiece** is given in memory of the April 30th birthday of Christy Dawson from her family.