

May 8, 2022 – 4th Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

Greeting

Opening Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 247 - Based in part on today's Gospel, "My Shepherd Is the Living God" also is strongly connected to the 23rd Psalm. The first verse closes with "and lead me for your mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace."

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Arise, people of God, to greet the one who calls us; come alive to the Spirit's energy among us.

Congregation: God awakens us and restores our souls. Surely God's goodness and mercy are with us here.

Liturgist: The shepherd is calling us to new ventures. We are invited to a higher quality of life.

Congregation: We will not fear to walk through shadowed valleys. God's love in Christ is with us everywhere.

Liturgist: Come to drink from springs of living water. Gather to find comfort and blessing here.

Congregation: Surely God will guide our search for truth. We seek eternal values within our daily walks.

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 426 - "O God, Whose Steadfast Love" was written by UCC pastor James Haddix. It was written to honor his mother at the end of her 30 years of teaching 1st grade. In honor of mothers everywhere, this hymn closes with "That mother's love and father's care and children's joy we all may share, and children's joy we all may share."

Confession of Sin

O God, we look at events around us and cannot perceive you within them. We shed tears and find no comfort. We listen for your voice and are greeted by silence. The world seems full of enemies waiting to devour us. On every hand, there are problems too complicated for us to solve. We live in fear rather than faith. We cry out to you for answers. O God, do you hear us? Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Gloria Patri

Lesson from the Acts of the Apostles – Acts 9:36-43 - Peter raises Tabitha from the dead.

Hymn of Praise (Recorded) - "A Mother's Love" - This Jim Brickman anthem is presented in honor of Mother's Day.

Children's Sermon

Lesson from the Revelation to John – Revelation 7:9-17 - John sees the multitude that no one can count standing and worshiping before the throne of God and the Lamb.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory - Today's Offertory selection is inspired by NCH 783 and was written by Marty Haugen. The text says "As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were gathering into one to become our bread; so may all your people from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you."

Doxology

Gospel Lesson – John 10:22-30 - Jesus promises to protect his sheep so that no one will snatch them out of his hand.

Sermon

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 253 - "Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!" closes with "endless is the victory you o'er death have won." The music is from Handel's "Judas Maccabeus."

Benediction

Postlude

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