**April 21, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Announcements**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship**One: When we are scattered, Jesus our Good Shepherd gathers us in.  
**Many: When we are lost and lonely, we can depend on Christ’s love.**One: When we are oppressed, Jesus our Good Shepherd cares for us.  
**Many: When we are threatened because of who we are, we can depend on**

**Christ’s protection.**One: We know Christ, because Christ’s tenderness has guided us for generations.  
**Many: Christ knows us by name. Christ will lay down his very life for our sake.**One: Let us worship our Good Shepherd, who cares for all of us with fierce love.  
**Many: Let us give thanks for Christ’s presence with us.**

**\*Invocation (Pastor)**Holy God, you sent us Jesus as our comforter and guide. We give you thanks for the ways he cares for us. Help us be empowered to join him in protecting the oppressed and marginalized. We pray this in gratitude for your provision. Amen.

**\*Hymn #252** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life (Unison)  
Shepherding Christ, even as you lay down your life for us, we confess our unwillingness to support the those in need. Too often, we may be more like the one who runs away in times of trouble. We aren’t always bold enough to protect the powerless; following your example is rarely easy or comfortable. Forgive us. Help us lay down our apathy and follow your example. Remind us that we belong to one another, and to you. Amen.**

**Words of Grace**One: Beloved of God, receive this comfort. It is impossible to respond to every need in this complicated world. A full life of faith gives us the grace to lay down our work, take the rest we need, then refocus our energy toward the cause of the oppressed. Rest in the shelter of your Good Shepherd, knowing you can take up the cause again with restored souls.  
**Many: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

**\*Gloria #759**

*Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One;*

*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,*

*world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**\*Peace of Christ**

**Youth Message**

**Scripture:   Psalm 23 pages 633-634, congregation reads indentation,**

**sung Response “R” - (reader, Bambi Eschbach);**

**1 John 3: 16-24 (Bambi);**

**John 10: 11-18**

**Response of Praise** *Thy Word*

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*

**Sermon:  “Enfolded by Love”**

**\*Hymn #518** *Father Almighty, Bless Us*

**\*Zion’s Mission Statement (Unison)**

**We gather together as a faith family in response to God's call. Throughout our history and today we seek to remain relevant to God's purposes.  We look to involve the life of our congregation with ministry to children, youth, and our changing community.  Dear to our hearts is the fellowship, witness and love of our faith family that we continue to share with all people.  We strive to grow through teaching and preaching the good news of Jesus Christ, by caring for the needs of one another, the community, and the world.**

**Pastoral Prayer and Our Lord’s Prayer (Unison)**

**“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”**

**Prayer Response #769**

*Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;*

*Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.*

**Invitation to Generosity (Pastor)**

Jesus offers us fullness of life, protecting us and advocating for our needs. What will you give to join him in the work of building beloved community in the world?

**Offertory**

**\*Offering Response #780**         *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Praise God above, you heavenly host:*

*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (Unison)  
Gracious God, thank you for your gift of Jesus Christ, who cares for us and protects us. With these gifts we return to you, help us care for others in our communities and around the world. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #248** *Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows*

**\*Benediction (Pastor)**Today you have received the gift of Christ’s protective, unceasing love for you. Because you are beloved, may all that you do and all that you are be a reflection of that love. Fight for the powerless, help the weak, and provide for the needy, because Jesus provides for you. Amen.

**Postlude**

Acknowledgments - Power to Lay It Down: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Easter Year B was written by Rev. Jacob Nault, Pastor of Union-Congregational Church in Waupun, WI. He also works alongside the UCC’s Disabilities Ministries Board to provide music, liturgy, and other resources on issues of disability justice.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – April 21, 2024**

**On behalf of the congregation, the Altar Flowers are presented in honor of Pastor Austin and Diane for their ministry, guidance and love for Zion’s congregation and our Pottstown community. Thanks!**

**“Praise God from whom all blessings flow.”**

**Prayer List:** The grieving family of Charles Kulp, The grieving family of Mark Miller, The grieving family of Dave Stout, The people of Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria, The victims of the tornadoes and natural disasters, Richard Adinolfi, Alvin Behm, Marsha Biehl, Joe Brogley, Irene Burkhardt, Joan Clouser, Laurie and Peter Eaton, Linda Egolf, Doris Evenstad, Ruth Hardaker, Betty Hawthorne, Adam Hayden, Kathy Hughes, Dorcas Kieffer, Jim Kirkhoff, Betty Leister, Robert Mackie, Eleanor Mauger, Daryll McCormick, Calvin Miller, Dan and Lois Oister, Phyllis, Holly Rhoads, Dave Richards, Bill Ross, Christian Ross, Kenneth Shellenberger II, Karen, Paul, and Scott Steffey, Lee Steiner, Bob Stengel, Pat Stout, Dottie Taylor, Dotty Washburn, Patti Whisler, Barbara Ziegler

**Wednesday, April 24 –** Wednesday Crew

Quilters

Pizza and Ping Pong, 5:30 p.m.

Bell Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, April 26 –** Community Meal at Emmanuel, 12:00 p.m.

**Looking Ahead**

**Sunday, April 28 –** Pastor Austin’s last worship service at Zion’s.

**Emmanuel's Attic Sale**

Over the last two years, volunteers have been cleaning out and sorting the contents of Emmanuel’s Attic (along with other spaces), relocating the items that are useful and historic to other areas within the building. What is left has been set up in the Fellowship Hall for sale to the public. Proceeds realized from the sale of these items will benefit the ministries of Emmanuel. Sale dates/times are Saturday’s April 13 and 27, May 4 and 11; from 8AM to 12PM. You will find tables filled with Household Items, Electronics, Fabric, Office Supplies, Christmas, and Toys (vintage and newer), with Furniture around the perimeter of the room. Everything is priced to sell! Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 150 N. Hanover Street, Pottstown. Please park and enter in the back of the building.

**Announcement -** We are looking for volunteers to help stream our Sunday morning services online.  We will need camera operators and computer operators.  It is our plan to create a schedule that rotates through the month.  If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Brian Miller at 484-941-4842 or [bmiller121611@gmail.com](mailto:bmiller121611@gmail.com).

**Save your Redner’s Receipts!** Please, place your Redner’s Save-A-Tape receipts in the box in the lobby of the Sunday School building. We need the entire register tape in order to get credit. Redner’s will donate 1% of sales to our church.

**Get on Board with Market Cards! Support Your Church!**

Members and friends may purchase a Giant and/or Redner’s Gift card to use for groceries or gas. Denominations of cards come in $25, $50, or $100. There is no charge to you but our church receives 5% of the grocery card purchased. Gift cards to Redner’s or Giant are available Sundays in the Sunday School building or during the week through the church office.

***CareBag List for Pottstown Infusion Center***

Here is a suggested list of donations:

—Knit hat

---Neck Noodle

—Hand lotion/chap stick

—mouth wash

—Prayer shawl/ lap blanket

—diamond painted angel keychain

—a CareNote (or similar) booklet

—word puzzle book

—notepad and pencil