



Worship Celebration

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020 + 11 AM

*The **Easter Season**, also known as the **Great Fifty Days**, begins at sunset on Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost (this year, on May 31). This our most joyous and celebrative season and the core of the entire Christian year. Together, we focus on Christ's resurrection and ascension and the continual invitation and call from God to live as Easter people, sharing God's love with the world. This Fourth Sunday of Easter also is known as **Good Shepherd Sunday**, with our readings focused on that particular image of God in Christ.*

Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!

*As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The UMC of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

Join us in worship, Sunday mornings at 11 am, on Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA), or watch and share the video of our worship service later on our website at www.umcb.org/sermons.

In preparation for worship, you are encouraged to light a candle as a reminder of God's presence.

We Gather as God's Children

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

The Lord is our shepherd.

We are the sheep of Christ's pasture.

The shepherd makes us lie down in green pastures.

In Christ, we dwell secure.

The shepherd leads us beside still waters and revives us.

We gather to worship Christ, our shepherd, our gate.

Hymn

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

UMH 381

***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.***

*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

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We Grow in God's Word

Leader: With disciples of every time and place, let us listen for the word of God among us.

People: *Our ears and hearts are open.*

First Lesson—Acts 2.42-47 (CEB)

⁴²The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. ⁴³A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were united and shared everything. ⁴⁵They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. ⁴⁶Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. ⁴⁷They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn (based on Psalm 23)

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

UMH 138

*The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.
 I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.*

*Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth;
 and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.*

*Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me;
 and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.*

*In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
 thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.*

*Though spreadst a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
 and oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth.*

*And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never;
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.*

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Gospel Lesson—John 10.1-10 (CEB)

¹I assure you that whoever doesn't enter into the sheep pen through the gate but climbs over the wall is a thief and an outlaw. ²The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The guard at the gate opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴Whenever he has gathered all of his sheep, he goes before them and they follow him, because

they know his voice. ⁵They won't follow a stranger but will run away because they don't know the stranger's voice." ⁶Those who heard Jesus use this analogy didn't understand what he was saying.

⁷So Jesus spoke again, "I assure you that I am the gate of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me were thieves and outlaws, but the sheep didn't listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Children's Message

Sermon

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Moment for Mission

Giving our Tithes and Offerings

Some of us may be experiencing financial hardship or uncertainty during this season, but our generosity through the life of the church remains crucial as an expression of our discipleship and to ensuring that we can maintain our commitments to mission and ministry during this uncertain time. If you already give financially online (www.umcb.org/donate) or by mailing a check to the church office, thank you! If you do not do so already, please consider giving through one of these methods now as we continue to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

Holy One, touch us again with the awe that came upon those earliest disciples as they beheld the signs and wonders performed among them.

May the gifts we offer this day be a remembrance of their commitment to share all things in common, in Jesus' name, Amen.

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn *God Be with You till We Meet Again* UMH 672

*God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.*

*Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again; neath his wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again.*

*Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you,
put his arms unfailing round you; God be with you till we meet again.*

*Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again; keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threatening waves before you; God be with you till we meet again.*

*Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.*

Benediction

The Lord is our shepherd.

In and through God's love, we lack nothing.

In green pastures, we rest secure.

Our shepherd leads us forward.

By still waters, we rest in peace.

Our shepherd makes us to live more fully.

Let us leave this time of worship with the blessings of our shepherd.

***Our service of worship is ended.
Our worship through service now begins.***

Morning Prayer:

Generous God, thank you for the gift of this new day.

Help me to watch for your signs and wonders, and fill my heart with gladness and generosity, that I may participate in making peace in the world today. Amen.

Evening Prayer:

Thank you, God, for shepherding me through this day.

As I lie down to sleep this night, help me to imagine green pastures and still waters, and to remember all the ways you set the table and fill my cup to overflowing. Amen..

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Upper Room Available Online

Do you enjoy the daily devotions in The Upper Room? The Upper Room has made these daily devotions available on their website, <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>.

Care Leaders

While we are apart from one another physically, we remain connected through our common mission and through our mutual concern and care. As an expression of our connection, we now have a team of "care leaders" who are making phone calls throughout the course of the week to check in, be in conversation, and share prayer requests. If you have not heard from a "care leader" yet and would like to connect this way, or if you would like to serve as a "care leader," contact **Pastor Nathan** at **440-234-3525 x101** or nhowe@umcb.org.

Pastoral Care and Prayer Requests

Please reach out to **Pastor Nathan** (nhowe@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x101**) if you would like to schedule an individual time to talk or if you have a specific prayer request. Likewise, if you find yourself needing food or other supplies and unable to get them, please contact me, and we will do our best to care for you; we have a team of servants ready to respond as best we can. Know that none of us is alone even though we will not be gathering together in person.

Staff & Office Hours

In accordance with the Governor's Stay-at-Home Order and for the protection of all, our staff is working from home whenever possible. If you contact the staff by email or phone message, please be assured they will respond as quickly as they are able. If your business requires a visit to the church building, please call in advance to ensure a staff member will be available.