

**Immanuel United Church  
April 21, 2024  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Good Shepherd Sunday**

**PRELUDE**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND TREATIES**

**Today, we acknowledge the land that we are gathered on is Treaty 1 territory, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota Peoples, as well as the homeland and the heart of the Red River Metis People, who for thousands of years, walked gently on this land with deeply rooted gifts of spirituality, culture and ways of knowing.**

**We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and give thanks for the connection we share with this land – in times past and also in the present day.**

**Today we are called to seek a new relationship as Indigenous and nonindigenous people, creating one based on friendship, built on respect, and one that produces peace, remembering that we are all treaty people.**

*As we enter this time of worship,*

*The rainbow candle is lit*

*To symbolize and remind us*

*Of the commitment that we have made To be an inclusive and welcoming community, and that all belong here. the Spirit candle is present, pointing to the presence of God guiding our lives always.*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING STATEMENT AND PRAYER**

In the lectionary, the fourth Sunday of Easter is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday”. In the Modern secular calendar, we mark Earth Day.

Psalm 23 is one of the best known and most loved passages of scripture. Spring, in rural areas is lambing season. And though most of us are removed from

“shepherding” as a modern metaphor, there is something that continues to hold our imagination. While we are shepherded by the creator and by the Messiah, there is a subtle implication that we have a responsibility to “tend” the community and environment we have been given. It’s a complex dance.

Let us Pray:

**Holy One, open our hearts and minds to the wonder of caring, and being cared for. As Spring spreads across the landscape may we know our world as a place of hospitality and justice for us and for all.**

**AMEN**

**Hymn : VU# 175 This Is the Day**

### **MOMENT TO PONDER**

Traditionally the gathering place of a church is known as the sanctuary; at once a place of holiness and security. Some traditions refer to the worship space as the Meeting House or Meeting Space; a place where people come together to share experience, or ideas, or to build relationship. Whatever your operative metaphor of this room is, we enter to find a place of community and renewal, then return to the world to live out our hopes and dreams and responsibilities. Amid all the challenges, and fears, and sorrows that the world experiences, we hold on to hope and delight.

**CHOIR ANTHEM: All In the April Evening**

**SCRIPTURE:**

John 10:11-18

**CHOIR ANTHEM: Brother James Air (The Lord’s My Shepherd)**

**REFLECTION:**

**HYMN: MV# 173 Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands**

**OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER**

Spring brings greening of the world and renewal of spirit. We have been gifted with all that we need. May the gifts we offer, and the lives we share, be a source of blessing, in the church and in the world.

Doxology **MV# 191**

**Let us Pray:**

**Holy One, may our loving and our action  
bring Hope and Peace to our community and  
to our world.**

**AMEN**

**COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER (Said) From VU 916  
Our Father-Mother.....**

**HYMN: MV# 126 Are You a Shepherd?**

**COMMISSIONING:**

**CHORAL Blessing - Marty Haugen**

**POSTLUDE**