



“Enfolded By Love”

Zion United Church of Christ
Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024

*Stand in body or spirit.

*(Join in speaking aloud the **bolded** portions.)*

Gathering

Feel the Spirit of the community. Worship is a time of both shared community and private conversation with God. Let us all come to this sacred space and enjoy the loving fellowship of our common faith amid the prayerful quiet that will allow us all to draw closer to God as we prepare to begin our morning worship.

Prelude

Coming Together to Share the Light

Greeting & Proclamation

"Nothing we can do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we are saved by love."
~ Reinhold Niebuhr, 20th Century

Welcome and Announcements

Litany of Easter Celebration

Come, walk in green pastures.

We follow the Shepherd.

Come, lie down in green pastures.

We trust the Shepherd.

Come, dine at the table of abundance.

We are fed by the Shepherd.

Come, dwell in God's house.

We live in the Shepherd's care.

Come Let Us worship together.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia! Amen.

Prayer of Invocation

The Prayer of Jesus

(All are invited to use whatever language and wording are most comfortable.)

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 sins/debts/trespases*, as we forgive *our debtors/those who sin/trespass against us*. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.

A Lesson for All Ages

***Hymn of Worship # 537**

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

Prayer for Our Humanity

... When you set a table before us, we turn aside from you.

Call us back into your care and help us trust your caring presence, that our actions may proclaim your truth. Make us truly the Christians, you have called us to be. AMEN.

Silence for Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

...God forgives our failures and calls us back into the flock.

Benediction

Bring Light out into the World

Postlude

We Focus on Our Life Together...

Thank you for choosing to worship with us this morning. No matter who or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Please join us downstairs in The Gathering Place for refreshments and fellowship after the service. Sunday School will be held downstairs during worship this morning.

Leader: Pastor Craig Sparks

Music Director: Thad Paulhamus

Musician: Clinton Adams

Message in Music: Zion UCC Choir

In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

Bryan Barbalace, Kevin Barbalace, Charlene Berk, Cheryl Blackburn, June Bocek*, Les & Vivian Bowser, Les Bowser Jr, Casey Brewer, Wayne Collins, Anna Denoe*, Anna Golden, Tom Hayman, Marie Kachinski, Henry & Gerri Krotee, Barbara Langenfelder*, John Langenfelder, Barbara Makin, Joyce Murphy, Gloria Nethkin, Betty Nolte*, Judith Panian*, John Pflugrad, Shirley Ritter*, Elaine Roberts, Barbara Thompson, Nancy Zaharis*, service men & women, Ukraine, Peace on Earth.

*Shut-ins

Looking ahead at Zion...

- 22:** Busy Hands (10 am-noon) Upper Hall
Turner Seniors (11 am) Lower Hall
Envisioning Our Future (7 pm) Gathering Place
- 23:** May Messenger Deadline – *all articles are due!*
Bible Study (6 pm) Gathering Place
Choir Rehearsal (7 pm) Sanctuary
N.A. "Stronger Ties" (7 pm) Lower Hall
- 24:** N.A. "Sink or Swim" (7 pm) Lower Hall
- 28:** Worship with Pastor Craig (10 am) Sanctuary

UCC MISSION MOMENT

"Enfolded by Love" John 10:11-18

Today is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday. In an increasingly urban culture, Shepherd can be a difficult metaphor to grasp. But, for some ministers, the metaphor of shepherd is very powerful, precisely because their work with livestock helps inform their ministry.

When she was asked what about ministry and shepherding crosses over, Catherine Foote (who describes herself as retired from ministry, but still shepherding) checked in from England, where she had traveled to participate in sheep dog trials.

"Ha!" she wrote, "Well, that would be just about everything! But I would say it has kept me aware of the everyday, ordinary diligence and joy of ministry. Sheep need to be fed, every day. Watered, every day. Tended, every day. And if I stop to notice, the work brings me joy, every day."

Although she's not a shepherd, Jackie Hibbard of Dancing Spirit Equine Facilitated Learning and Coaching and associate pastor at community UCC Boulder works extensively with animals and their connections to humans. She checked in about her work with horses. "Horses have helped me learn so much about myself and my leadership style. I could talk about this for paragraphs, but two simple learnings are: they help me know when I'm not being clear and when I'm not fully present. I am a better minister and listener, because of what horses have taught me."

Think about the relationships you have had with animals. How have those relationships deepened your relationship with God and with your sense of calling and vocation?

Dedications...

If you would like to dedicate a weekly bulletin or monthly Messenger in memory or honor of a loved one, please leave a message at the church office by calling 410-687-0980 or emailing your request to info@zionuccmd.com. Weekly Bulletin sponsorship is \$15, Monthly Messenger is \$30.

Have you considered Online Giving?

Our online giving platform, **Easy Tithe**, makes it simple! Make a one-time donation or set up recurring offering at www.zionuccmd.com/giving

Zion UCC Church Staff

Ministers	All members of Zion UCC	
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Thad Paulhamus	Music Director	443-610-7844
Clinton Adams	Musician	
Rev. C. Larry Fisher, Rev. Hugh Nash	Pastor Emeriti	

Administrative Office: 410-687-0980

- * Press 1 to leave voicemail message
- * Press 2 for Pastoral Services
- * Press 3 to contact Council President
- * Press 4 to contact Cemetery
- * Press 6 to contact Congregational Care

Pastor Craig will be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 to 4:00 pm. The phone and email continue to be monitored, and all incoming mail is processed daily. For your convenience, you may leave envelopes or correspondence in the locked mailbox on the office porch. Messengers, Bulletins, and Upper Room Devotionals are also available.

If you require pastoral services, please call the church office, and press #2; email to *pastor@zionuccmd.com* or call Pastor Craig directly at 443-896-6815.

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