



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ
Order of Worship for 4/30/2023
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Rev. Amelia Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

Prelude

“Air”

J. Battishill

Welcome & Opening Sentences (adapted from UCC Worship Ways resources)

In the Easter season, we celebrate God’s love for the world that has been revealed in Jesus Christ, who certainly loved us to the uttermost; Jesus, who at His last meal with his disciples gave them – and us – that new commandment: “...love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

***Hymn of Celebration:**

“Look Who Gathers at Christ’s Table”

Glory to God #506

Invocation

God of Love & Longing,
we need not beg for your presence among us
because it is within you that we live, and move, and have our being.
You already have met us here, and it is within your infinite love and unconditional welcome
that we find a place to rest and a home to return to.
In this holy hour, may we find sanctuary in this sanctuary, authenticity in this Body,
forgiveness on the journey, and inspiration for our shared future.
Lead us like a shepherd toward still waters and greener pastures,
so that we might manifest the depth of your love for all creation.
In the name of the risen Christ we pray. Amen.

Listening To the Sacred Text:

Acts 2:42-47

Listening for the Spirit in Silence

Word and words, O God. Help us to hear the One among the many.

Reflecting:

“All Things In Common”

***Hymn of Reflection:**

“The Church’s One Foundation”

NCH #386

***Prayer of Assurance:** Psalm 23 (Unison)

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.*

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.*

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory Music: "Bright Morning Stars" Appalachian Folk Song
Lucy Erda, Amy Harris, Britt Hicks, Laura Martin

***Doxology** (Tune: *Old Hundredth, New Century Hymnal #780*)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that love has done.
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

Announcements

***Sending Song:** "The Day of Resurrection" NCH #245

***Benediction**

Postlude: "Bourrée" G. F. Händel

*** Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.**

Leading In Today's Service:

Laura Martin, Director of Music	Britt Hicks, Director of Online Ministries	
John Goff, Usher	CJ Wood, Liturgist	
Hannah M. Shuman, Piano	Amy Harris, violin	Liz Lee, cello