



Congregational Church of Austin,  
United Church of Christ  
*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ

**Order of Worship for 4/21/2024**

*Fourth Sunday After Easter*

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

**Words for Centering**

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

*Just trust yourself,  
Then you will know how to live.*

**Ringling of the Bells**

**Prelude** Improvisation on "Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows"

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel

*If you are visiting for the first time, we are so glad you have joined us!  
Thank you for leading us in worship with your presence!*

**\*Hymn of Celebration**

New Life UCC Sing! Prayer and Praise #156

**\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 23

Andrea Low

*Paraphrase written by Nan C. Merrill*

O my Beloved, you are my shepherd, I shall not want;

**You bring me to green pastures for rest**

And lead me beside still waters renewing my spirit,

**You restore my soul.**

You lead me in the path of goodness to follow Love's way.

**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow and of death, I am  
not afraid;**

For You are ever with me;

**Your rod and your staff they guide me,**

They give me strength and comfort.

**You prepare a table before me**

In the presence of all my fears;

**You bless me with oil, my cup overflows.**

Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life;

**And I shall dwell in the heart of the Beloved forever.**

**Reading of the Christian Scriptures** John 10:11-18

Andrea Low

‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Divine Parent knows me and I know the Divine Parent. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason, the Divine Parent loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Divine Parent.’

This is the spirit of God’s love. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Hymn of Reflection** My Shepherd is the Living God

\*\*NCH247

**Prayers for God’s Beloved Community**

Rev. Ginny

**Anthem**

For the Beauty of the Earth

Alonso

**Reflecting in Community**

Rev. Ginny

**Silence**

**Invitation to Generosity**

Rev. Ginny

*You are invited to financially give so that we can continue to serve our neighbors in Austin and throughout the world. Your generosity can be with cash, a check, or*

*scanning the QR code to give online (see the back of this bulletin). Thank you for your generosity.*

**Offertory Music**      Pastoral Symphony from the "Messiah"      G. F. Handel

**\*Doxology**      Tune - Lasst Uns Erfreuen

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*Praise God for all that love has done. Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**      Andrea Low

Thank you, God, for the opportunity to share in your creative and restorative work among people. Because we are created in your image, we have much to give. Bless these gifts as expressions of your liberating love and transformative peace in our world. Amen.

**\*Sending Song**      Now the Peace of Easter  
Tune -Nouvelet/ Words – Rev. Maren Tirabassi

*Now our words are spoken, now our trust is born.*

*Energies are rising – we prepare to learn.*

*We pass our peace and share our neighbors' need  
and the holy Gardener gives us shoot and seed.*

*Green comes up in churches – care for earth and air,  
stewardship of resource -- renewal and repair.*

*Damage is done that makes creation weep --  
Easter opens graves of all that is buried deep.*

*Now the peace of Easter rests on each one here,  
rising like the morning, falling like the tear.*

*Raised from the dead – Christ love for us is seen –  
Easter comes again like wheat arising green.*

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**                      The Rejoicing from the "Messiah"                      G. F. Handel  
*You are invited to be seated and listen to the postlude as our gift to you from the Divine. After the postlude, we will have a time of joys and concerns and prayer. If you are visiting with us, you are invited to stay for as much or as little as you choose. We are grateful for your presence with us today!*

*Welcome to the Congregational Church of Austin, UCC!*  
If you are visiting for the first time, we are so glad you have joined us! We invite you to join us after worship for a time of fellowship so that we can learn more about you and share more about our church with you!  
Thank you for leading us in worship with your presence!

**Leading In Today's Service:**

*Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, Interim Pastor and Teacher*

*Jonathan Geer, Piano*

*Amy Harris, Violin*

*Roberto Hernández, Usher and Deputy Deacon*

*Liz Lee, Cello*

*Andrea Low, Worship Leader*

*Laura Martin, Director of Music*

*Reuel Nash, Sound and Worship Streaming*

\*\* *When we refer to the New Century Hymnal, we use the acronym, NCH.*

