



April 30, 2023
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

www.greenfieldcharge.org
greenfieldchargeucc@gmail.com

Facebook: Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

Pastor
Mrs. Wendy Farber

farberhome@atlanticbb.net

Pianist
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

Organist
Gary McIntyre (Grace)

Easter Centering Words

We must be willing to be led.

– F. B. Meyer
The Shepherd Psalm (1889)

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

April 30, 2023

Mt Hope 8:30am
4th Sunday of Easter

Greenfield 9:50am

Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Hear Jesus' great truth: I am the gate for the sheep!

We recognize this voice. We've heard these words before.

Come in! You belong here! You are safe and cared for here!

We recognize the voice of our shepherd.

Follow and find green pastures and still waters!

We hear his voice.

I come to give life and give it abundantly.

Come one, come all!

* *Invocation*

Risen Savior, Reliable Shepherd, we hear your voice calling us to follow. We remember our ancient brothers and sisters who gathered in prayer and praise. Today, we too gather in prayer and praise. Enliven us with your resurrection power – a power that frees us from despair. Enliven us with your abundant life. May your living power flow through us in all we are and do! Amen

* *Opening Hymn* *“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

Mt Hope PH #15

Greenfield CH #210

Grace TH #8

Prayer for Confession

Loving Savior, Shepherd with the voice we know, be with us when we stray. For we often hear the voices of strangers and follow them to dry pastures and dark valleys. We forget your voice of love and begin to feel small and lost. We fear that we will not have enough to go on, much less have a surplus to offer others. And yet you know us by heart and by name. Call us once again. Restore our souls.

Walk ahead of us on the right paths, and we will follow you. Remembering your voice, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

(Psalm 23)

Jesus is our gate.

We will enter and be saved.

Jesus is our shepherd.

We will walk upon his paths.

Jesus restores our souls,

And makes us whole.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives.

And we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 23 NKJV

¹ The LORD *is* my shepherd;

I shall not want.

² He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

³ He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

For You *are* with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25 NIV

¹⁹ For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is

commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²² “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” ²⁵ For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

John 10:1-10 NIV

Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)

TH #497

The Good Shepherd and His Sheep

¹ “Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn*

“He Leadeth Me”

Mt Hope VH #276

Greenfield CH #690

Grace VH #276

Today's Message

* *The Apostle's Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic/Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

* *The Lord's Prayer*

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

* *Sung Response*

“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”

TH # 501

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement

Offertory (MH)

* Doxology

TH # 551

* Offertory Prayer

God of Abundant Life, Host of our Table, we devote ourselves and these gifts to your vision of a community that meets the needs of any and all. We give our gifts of money and work, of prayer and praise, of presence and purpose to our friends and neighbors. Bless our offering, that it may meet the needs, both small and large of your great and generous blessings. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn* *“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

Mt Hope VH #236

Greenfield CH #688

Grace VH #236

* *Benediction*

Everyone was struck with awe by the signs and wonders of the early church.

This week, let’s show signs and wonders of our church.

The resurrection power of Jesus Christ, Shepherd of the Church, is upon us.

Jesus came that all may have life and have it abundantly!

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives!

May goodness and mercy flow from us all the days of our lives! Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*