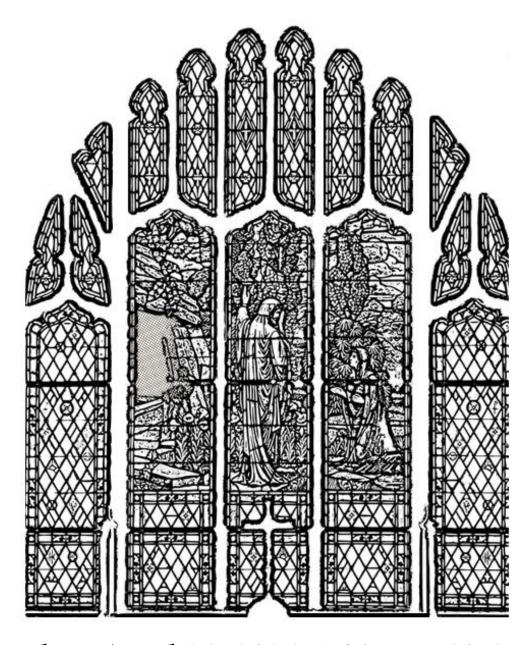
MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, April 21, 2024, 8:30AM & 10:45AM
The Fourth Sunday of Easter—Good Shepherd Sunday
with celebration of Holy Baptism

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THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, PASTOR ··· tstrandburg@mlumc.org



Sunday, April 21, 2024 – The Fourth Sunday of Easter - Good Shepherd Sunday with celebration of Holy Baptism

Movie Buffs are flocking to theaters to watch movies based on brand-name products. We need to rebuild the "Jesus brand" and become a church that acts like a good shepherd who recognizes the power of community and sacrifice.

*Indicates an invitation to stand in spirit or posture, as able.

The Prelude Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten Chorale: Georg

Chorale: Georg Neumark (1621-1681), UMH 142;

Variations: Gaël Liardon (1973-2018)

I. Chorale

II. Contre-chant III. Fughette IV. Pédale solo

The Introit (10:45)

Down to the River to Pray trad., arr. Bradley Ellingboe;

Brenton Rahman, soloist

*Opening Hymn "The King of Love my Shepherd is" UMH 138

*Call to Worship

- Jesus the Good Shepherd calls our names to come and follow him.
- R His voice, speaking our names, draws us to him.
- We follow without fear, for the shepherd cares for us.
- Nour hearts rejoice and we can place our trust in the Good Shepherd.
- Vector Come, let us enter the gate with thanksgiving!
- R Let us go forth confidently with songs of praise!

*Opening Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

Gracious God,

like sheep, we are prone to wander from our Good Shepherd.

We know that you alone can lead us to right paths, streams of living water and pastures that feed us, but we are easily distracted, frequently frightened and stubbornly bent on making our own way. Still, you call us.

Still, you whisper words of life and peace.

Thank you for your relentless pursuit of us.

In humility and faith, we turn to you again and follow you.

For the sake of Christ our Shepherd, we pray.

Amen.

*Silent Prayer

*Response

"If thou but suffer God to guide thee"

UMH 142

Sacrament of Baptism (10:45am)

UMH 39

Claire Amelia Kurta

Daughter of Amy E. & Zachary R. Kurta

THE PASTOR baptizes the child, after which the baptismal liturgy concludes with the following question posed to the congregation, and their ensuing response:

- Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life, and include this child now before you in your care?
- With God's help, we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ.

 We will surround Claire Amelia with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her service to others.

 We will pray for her, that she may be a true disciple, who walks in the way that leads to life.

Sung Response "Child of blessing, child of promise" (vv.1,3,4) UMH 611
The people remain seated as they sing.

A Message for Young Disciples (10:45 am)

As the young disciples gather at the front of the church, all sing:

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng. Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.

The young disciples (3 yr. - 3^{rd} grade) then depart the sanctuary for Kids Praise. Teachers will lead them back to the sanctuary prior to the conclusion of the service.

1 JN. 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us, for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God, and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Hymn

"I want to walk as a child of the light"

UMH 206

*The Second Lesson

A Reading from the Gospel according to John IN. 10:11-18

"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 Father knows me, and I know the Father. 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 Father 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 Father."

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

The Psalm of the Day (10:45, sung by the choir)

Ps. 23

Chant: C.H. Stewart (1884-1932)

The Sermon

"The Good Shepherd Brand"

Rev. Strandburg

*The Affirmation of Faith

UMH 882

All are invited to stand, in spirit or in posture, and to face the altar as the affirmation of faith is recited.

Pastor: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and

universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven.

is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Amen.

*The Sign of Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

The people are now invited to share signs of peace with their fellow members of Christ's body. Extended conversation would ideally and most appropriately be reserved until the end of the service.

At the Offertory

The Offertory Hymn (8:30 am) "He leadeth me: O blessed thought!" UMH 128

The Anthem (10:45 am) The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want Howard Goodall (b.1958)

*The Doxology UMH 94

*The Prayer of Dedication

*The Sending Hymn "God, the Spirit, Guide, and Guardian" UMH 648

*The Dismissal

- V. Let us bless the Lord.
- R. Thanks be to God.

*The Benediction

*Postlude & Recessional

The people remain in place until the altar party has retired.

Please remember in prayer:

Convalescing in care facilities

Priscilla Utzig, Providence Point Carol Fairgrieve, Providence Point

Convalescing at home

Bishop George Bashore

Jean Boyer

Don Langston

Susan Lichtenfels

Carol Van Sickle

Dawn Lonsinger

Serving in the military

Jason Boyer SPC Natalie Brown PFC William Dilla III Maj. Zachary Allen Finch

1Lt. Shaun Hay

LCpl. Wyatt Hoover

James Iantelli 1Lt. Jaskiewicz

Sgt. Keith Kimmell

Sgt. Brendan Lamport

Sgt. Matthew McConahan

Thomas Orda David Poncel

Sgt. Steven Reitz

LTC Scott B. Rushe

Pvt. Max Siegert

Pastor Rick Townes

Maj. Azizi Wesmiller

LTC Matthew Wesmiller

Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski

Sgt. Michael Zimmerman

Leaders in Worship this Morning

DILLON SCHMIDT AND ABIGAIL LOWE, ACOLYTES

COURTNEY SCHMIDT, CROSS BEARER

ROB SPICHER (8:30AM) AND MR. STECKER (10:45AM), LECTORS

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MS. BETH MINGLE, STAFF SOPRANO

MS. TIMOTHI WILLIAMS, STAFF MEZZO-SOPRANO

MR. KIRBY DILWORTH, STAFF TENOR

MR. A. MITCHELL V. STECKER, MINISTER OF MUSIC & ORGANIST

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

The altar flowers this morning given by William Timmons in loving memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert G. Timmons

The flowers in the chancel given by Mary Alice Donaldson

in loving memory of her sister Elizabeth Yost, and Elizabeth's dear friend Cindy Reichard, and in gratitude to Kathleen Amant.

For information about furnishing altar flowers for future services, contact Lizzie Diller at 412-860-3614. The cost is \$45 per arrangement.