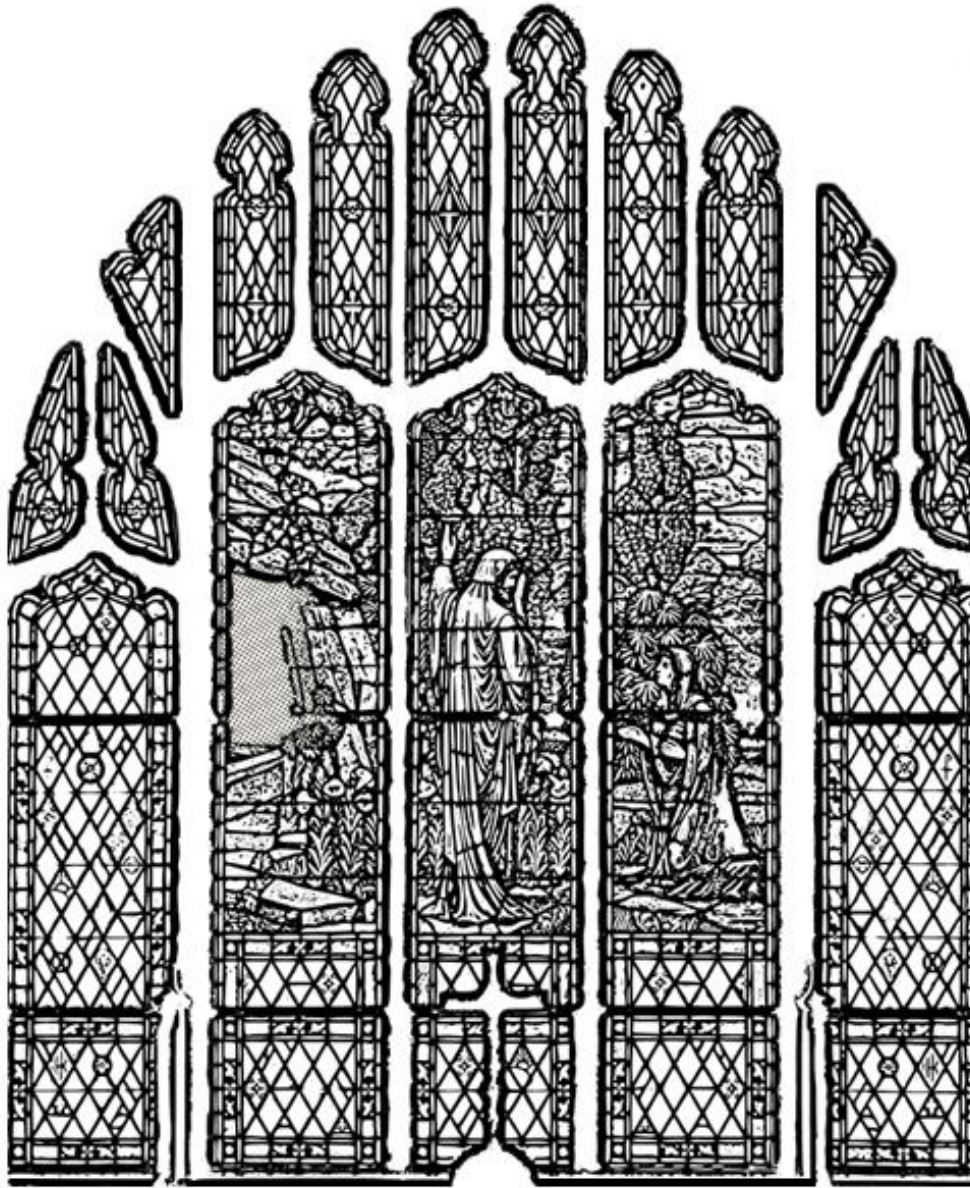


# MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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](mailto: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 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.

℞ **His voice, speaking our names, draws us to him.**

∞ We follow without fear, for the shepherd cares for us.

℞ **Our hearts rejoice and we can place our trust in the Good Shepherd.**

∞ Come, let us enter the gate with thanksgiving!

℞ **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.**



## The First Lesson

## A Reading from the First Letter of John

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**

JN. 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 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**

∇. Let us bless the Lord.

℞. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*The Benediction**

**\*Postlude & Recessional**

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

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*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

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*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. TIMOTHY 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

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*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.*