

Salem United Church of Christ Moorestown
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Ministers of the Church – Every Member of Salem UCC
March 22, 2020 Worship

Welcome

Musical Selection

Call to Worship

- God, sometimes, the days are long, the nights are even longer, and we're so tired. And then you soothe us and bring us to gentle places. You are our shepherd.
- Sometimes, life is moving too fast, and we can't find a moment to breathe. And then.... You surround us with stillness and bring an even rhythm to our breath. You are our shepherd.
- Sometimes, we're parched, and it seems nothing will quench our thirst, We're famished and we can't find anything to eat. And then you refresh and fill us. You are our shepherd.
- Sometimes, the valley is dark and the shadows are heavy and we're afraid. But then we feel your strength, and we have courage. You are our shepherd.
- We will praise you and dwell with you forever, O God. We will worship you this day and always!

Opening Prayer

Holy One, help us to relax. Take from us the tension that makes peace impossible. Take from us the fears that do not allow us to rest in your peace. Remove the worries that blind our sight. Take away the distress that hides your joy. Help us to know that we are not alone, that you are with us, that we are in your care, that we are in your love, and that we are one with you. Amen.

Music – Hymn # 499 – “He Leadeth Me” – 2 verses

Prayer of Confession

O God, as we walk through this dark time we confess that we are fearful and anxious. We fear we will run out of food and basic necessities. We fear we will not have enough money. We fear that our anxiety will get the best of us. We fear we will get sick. We fear that we and others we love will die. Forgive us when we become so self-consumed that we only focus on the dire situation and fail to see goodness around us. Today we pray that you will lead us to a still place where we can feel and know your presence. Listen now to our silent confessions.

Assurance of Pardon

We pray that your promise is true, that you constantly pursue us with goodness and love, and that we are never alone. We thank you, O God, for your steadfast love and forgiveness. Guide us, we pray, through the life and love you show us in Jesus the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

Scripture – 23rd Psalm

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.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Today's Message

Music – Hymn # 440 – "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us" (2 verses)

Offering - All that we have, all that we give already belongs to God. I invite you at this time to consider ways to give of your time and talents in new ways in this time of social distancing and also ask you to consider how you will offer your tithes and offerings – some options are: on-line giving available through our website or your smartpone, mail check in weekly, set aside your offering each week until we can meet again in the building.

Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Friends, leave this time of worship knowing we are not alone. Receive God's love and care, and share that love and care with others in safe ways! Until we meet again, however that may be, may you walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

**Portions of this worship were adapted from "UCC Worship Ways".*

**The Prayer of Confession was written by Pastor Kathy Dwyer and used with her permission.*