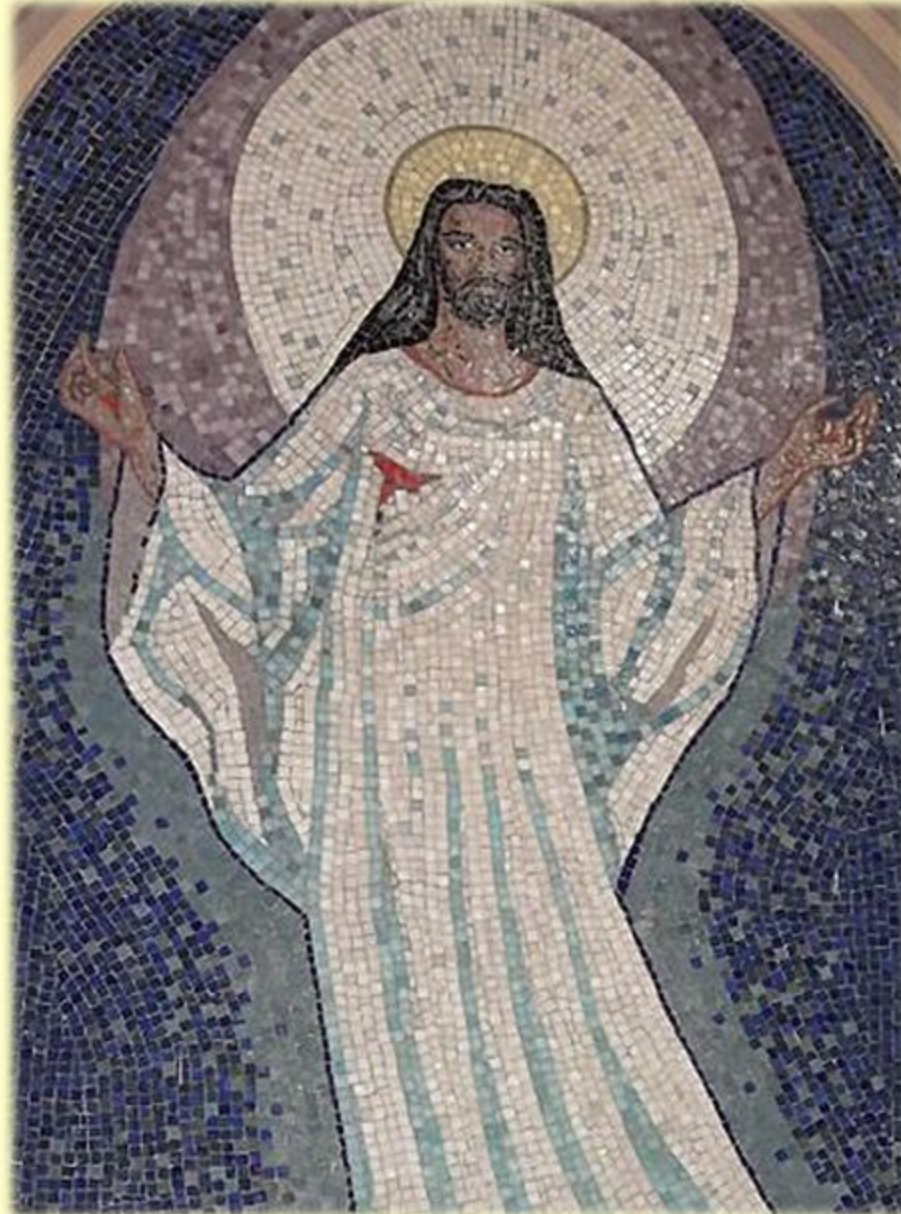


# Fourth Sunday of Easter



*The Resurrection of Christ*  
Church of Saint Sebastian  
Porto Alegre, Brazil

April 26<sup>th</sup> 2026  
Portage Lake United Church

# Welcome and Announcements

*We gather in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God, source of all goodness and mercy.  
No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

- We are looking to hire a new church secretary. If you know of a potential applicant, play match maker and tell Pastor Peter or anyone on the consistory.
- We need a volunteer wrangler, that is, someone to put together the list of volunteers for upcoming Sundays. Let Peter know if you are willing to help.
- Angel Mission needs: Rice, Brown Rice
- ***Are there any other announcements?***



*Liturgical Color White and/or Gold  
Lectionary Year A*

**President: Rev. Peter Norland**  
**Musician: Susie Byykkonen**  
**Greeters:**  
**Reader:**  
**Prayer Writer: Greg Campbell**  
**Children's Church: Olivia Byykkonen**  
**Coffee:**



*Madeline Larson 2023*

## MEDITATION

It is, I believe, this discovery of our own radical powerlessness for good and potential for evil that causes us to be identified with the crucified Christ.

*-From: Toward God, by Michael Casey*

## PRELUDE

*I Am Thine, O Lord, William H. Diane/arr, Melody Bober*

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

## ✦ CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

We have been through much, but the Lord has been with us,  
and so we find peace and give thanks.

**The Lord is our shepherd;  
we have everything we need.**

Through shadow and light,  
through death and birth, through grief and joy,  
we have never been alone. We rest in that truth.

**Surely goodness and mercy  
shall follow us all the days of our lives,  
and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**



*Ann Campbell*

# HYMN "I Come with Joy" #507 BLUE

Used with permission.  
One License # A-725614

## I Come with Joy

507

DOVE OF PEACE 8.6.8.6.6

American folk melody  
Arr. Austin C. Lovelace, 1977

Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1977

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, For - giv - en, loved, and  
2. I come with Chris - tians far and near To find, as all are  
3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, Each proud di - vi - sion  
4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His pres - ence, al - ways  
5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, We'll go our dif - ferent

free, In awe and won - der to re - call His  
fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love In  
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, And  
near, Is in such friend - ship bet - ter known: We  
ways, And as His peo - ple in the world, We'll

life laid down for me, His life laid down for me.  
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, In Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
stran - gers now are friends, And stran - gers now are friends.  
see and praise Him here, We see and praise Him here.  
live and speak His praise, We'll live and speak His praise.

Alternate tune: LAND OF REST, 522

Text and Music: Text copyright © 1971, music copyright © 1977 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.  
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

# ✦ PRAYER OF THE DAY

God our Shepherd,  
you are our safe place, our shelter,  
our ground, our breath.

We turn to you in hope and trust,  
knowing we have come this far by faith,  
and you will guide us all the way.

Mold our daily patterns for your purposes  
so that we may live as one heart and mind  
with you and our neighbors,  
rejoicing together and praising your holy name,  
through Jesus the Christ. Amen.  
**Amen.**

# ✦ THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (Responsive)

In the waters of baptism,  
we receive God's promise and grace,  
We, together, are united with the Risen Christ.

**We give thanks for the gift of baptism.**

From the very beginning, O God,  
you have brought forth life from the waters.  
At a time when all seemed lost, in a time of the great flood,  
**you made a way for new life through the waters.**

When your people cried for liberation, parting the sea,  
**you made a way for new life through the waters.**

You entered into your creation, nurtured in the water of  
Mary's womb, and baptized in the river Jordan, through Jesus,  
**you made a way for new life through the waters.**

By your Spirit, you raised your servant from death, in his  
resurrected life you promised the renewal of all creation—  
that promise is for us, too.

**You make a way for new life through the waters.**

Your grace washes over us in the waters of baptism.

**United in Christ, you make us new.**

In these waters, we hear your Word to us:

**"You are my beloved."**

And that is our truth forever.

**Nothing can separate me from God's great love!**



## ✦ PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Greet each other with a sign of God's peace.*

Children of God, we are the body of Christ.

**By one spirit**

**we were baptized into one body.**

Keep the unity of the Spirit

in the bond of peace.

**Amen! We are bound by the love of Christ.**



# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture, reading,  
preaching and song*



*Sherry Middlemis-Brown*

## + FIRST READING Acts 2:42-47

2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 2:43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. 2:44 All who believed were together and had all things in common; 2:45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 2:46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, 2:47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

## Second Reading 1 Peter 2:19-25

2:19 For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. 2:20 If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. 2:21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. 2:22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 2:23 When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 2:25 For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

# +HYMN "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" #387 BLUE

Used with permission.  
One License # A-725614

## 387 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

BRADBURY 8.7.8.7 D

Thrupp's *Hymns for the Young*, 1836

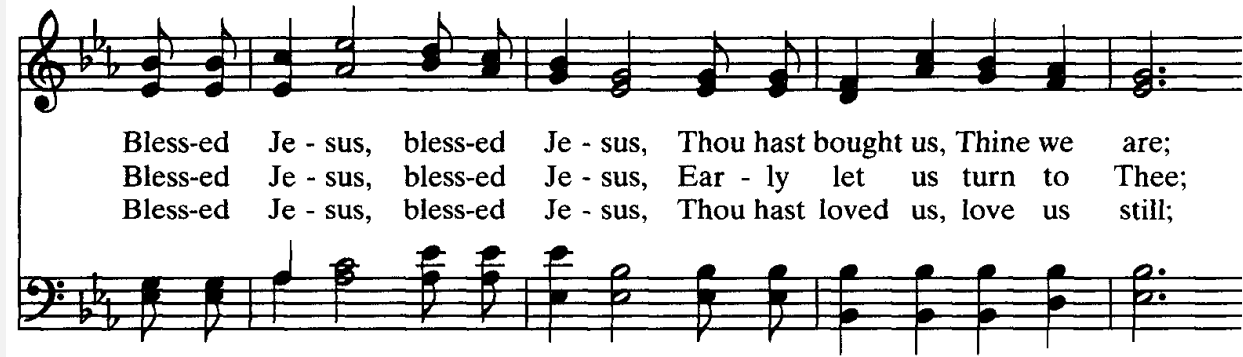
William Batchelder Bradbury, 1859



1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, Much we need Thy ten - der care;
2. Thou hast prom-ised to re - ceive us, Poor and sin - ful though we be;
3. Ear - ly let us seek Thy fa - vor; Ear - ly let us do Thy will;



In Thy pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, For our use Thy folds pre-pare:  
Thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and power to free:  
Bless-ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, With Thy love our bo - soms fill:



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to Thee;  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to Thee.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Alternate tune: SICILIAN MARINERS, 538

## ✚ GOSPEL READING John 24:1-10

<sup>10:1</sup> Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>10:2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>10:3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>10:4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>10:5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>10:6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>10:7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>10:8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>10:9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10:10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

**The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God**

# Sermon



*Good Shepherd (Atlas Mountains, Morocco)*  
Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1859-1937

## ✦ OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Generous God, may these gifts bless our life together,  
fortify our ministry, and transform our community.

Receive our gifts and our whole lives, that we might ever grow in  
gladness and thanksgiving. Amen.



*Psalm 23*

John August Swanson

<https://www.johnaugustswanson.com>

# OFFERTORY HYMN "Step by Step" #17 GREEN

Used with permission.  
One License # A-725614

## Step by Step

17

*Descants*

O God, you are my God, and I will ev - er praise  
G D/F# D C/E C/D D

O God, you are my God, and I will ev - er praise

you. O God, you are my God, and I will ev - er praise  
G Dsus7 D7 G D/F# D C/E C/D D

you. O God, you are my God, and I will ev - er praise

you. I will seek you in the morn - ing, and I will  
G Em Dsus D

you. I will seek you in the morn - ing, and I will

learn to walk in your ways. And step by step you'll lead  
C Am7 G

learn to walk in your ways. And step by step you'll lead

me, and I will fol - low you all of my days.  
D/F# D C/E Dsus7 D7 G

me, and I will fol - low you all of my days.

Text and music: Beaker (20th cent.)

© 1991, BMG Songs, Inc. (ASCAP)/Kid Brothers of St. Frank Publishing, admin. BMG Songs, Inc.

# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



# PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (ECUMENICAL)

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and forever.  
Amen.**



# HYMN "We Are One In The Spirit"

INSERT

Used with permission.  
One License # A-725614

## We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em)  
Fm

(Bm) (Em)  
Cm Fm



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;  
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;  
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;  
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am)  
B<sup>b</sup>m

(Em)  
Fm



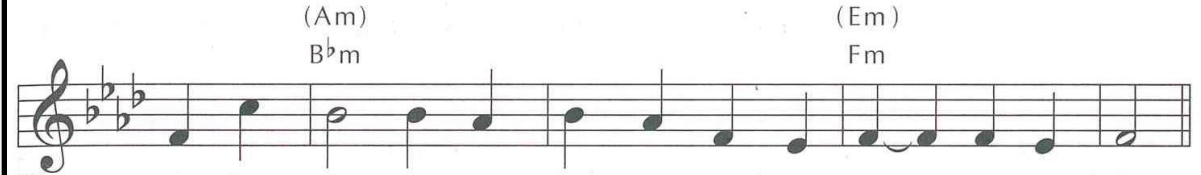
we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,  
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,  
we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,  
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am)  
B<sup>b</sup>m

(Em)  
Fm

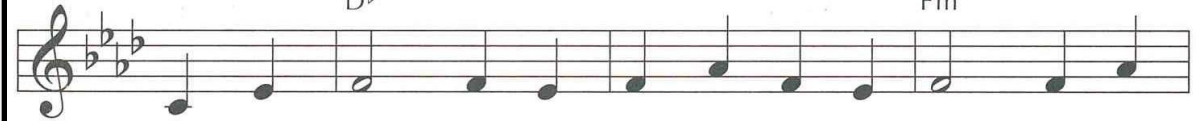


and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:  
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:  
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:  
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:  
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) (Em)  
D<sup>b</sup> Fm



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)  
B<sup>b</sup>m Fm B<sup>b</sup>m Cm Fm B<sup>b</sup>m/F Fm



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

TEXT and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes, 1966  
Text and Music © 1966 F.E.L. Publications, assigned 1991 to The Lorenz Corp.

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS  
7.6.7.6.8.6 with refrain

# ✦ CHARGE AND BLESSING

**Devote yourself to the teachings of the gospel,  
to your prayers,  
and true fellowship day by day,  
for they will lead you to a glad  
and generous heart.**

**May the God who calls us by name  
lead you out to green pastures  
and into the safety of Christ's fold.  
Go, have life and have it abundantly.**



# POSTLUDE

*The Lord's My Shepherd*, Jesse S. Irvine & William Gardner/arr. Marilyn Ham

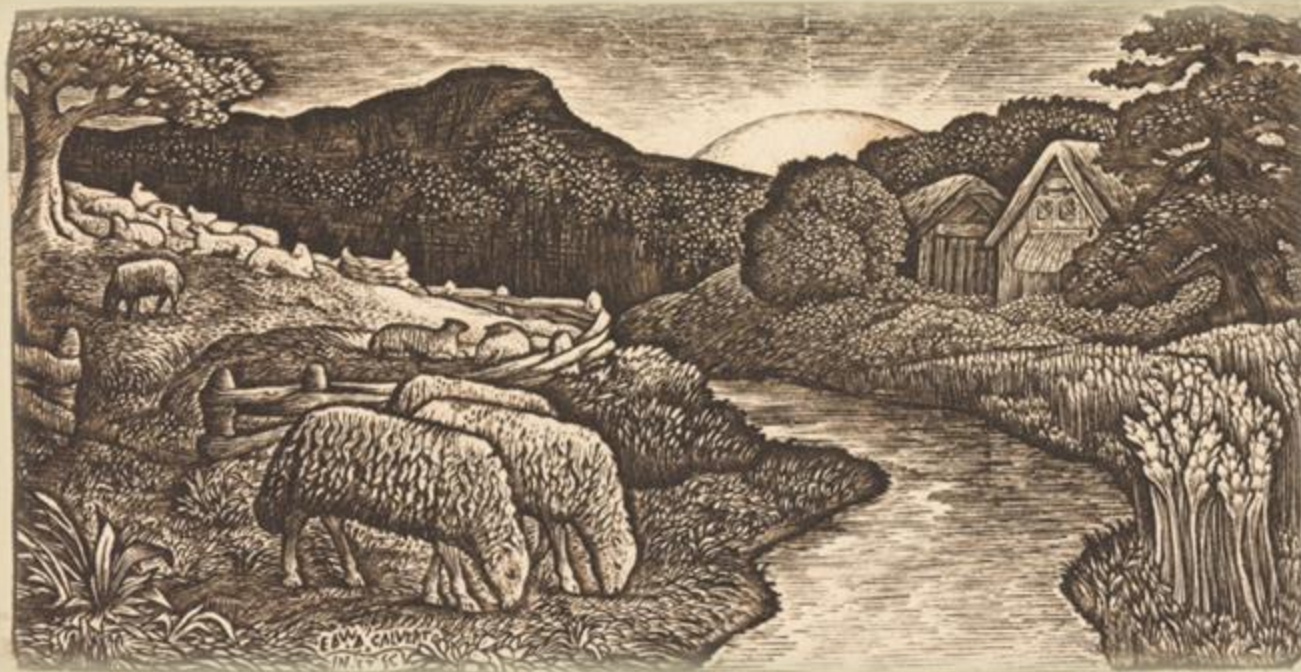
## MEDITATION

Acts 2:42–47 describes what life was like in the early church.

How do these words guide today's church?

How are they still relevant?

What specific practices can churches do today to embody the Spirit of these early followers of Jesus?



*Sheep of His Pasture*  
Edward Calvert, 1799-1883

*Thanks to:*

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland  
Musician: Susie Byykkonen  
Greeters: Al & Mary Eckhart  
Reader: Jim Northey  
Prayer Writer: Greg Campbell  
Children's Church: Olivia Byykkonen  
Coffee: Ann Campbell, Kim

*Next week:*

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland  
Musician: Susie Byykkonen  
Greeters: NEEDED  
Reader: NEEDED  
Prayer Writer: Lois Jambekar  
Coffee :Bobbie and Sze Wenn  
Children's Church: Olivia Byykkonen  
Next Sunday's Scriptures:  
Acts 7:55–60; 31:1–5, 15–16; 1 Peter 2:2–10; John 14:1–14

All Scriptures taken from NRSV, copyright Thomas Nelson publishers.  
All songs used with permission. One License # A-725614

Additional descriptions can be found at the Art in the Christian Tradition image library, a service of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/>. All images available via Creative Commons 3.0 License.



**Portage Lake United Church**

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1400 East Houghton Avenue, Houghton Michigan 49931  
[www.PLUC.org](http://www.PLUC.org)    [office@pluc.org](mailto:office@pluc.org)    (906)482-5224

Rooted in the Trinity. Growing in God's Word.  
Branching out to those in need. Nourished by many waters.