

JASPER UNITED CHURCH
April 21th, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Mission Statement

“Our mission is to worship God and deepen our Christian faith. We strive to seek justice, be an inclusive, caring and accepting community, and to be stewards of God’s world.”

“Jesus is apt to come into the very midst of life at its most real and inescapable.” Frederick Buechner

GOD GATHERS US IN

Prelude

Welcome

Territorial Acknowledgement

Announcements

Celebrations and Remembrances

Settling Moment

Christ Candle

We come to celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ—for us, for this community, for all creation.

We light this candle to celebrate the light of Christ, the one who offers love and acceptance, not judgment and rejection.

Call To Worship

The good shepherd calls us

And leads us to green pastures and still waters.

A table is prepared in the presence of my enemies.

I am tired and weary,

But my soul is restored.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Let us worship God!

Opening Hymn: *The Spring Has Come*

VU 187

Opening Prayer

O God, you are the good Shepherd. As we come wearily from our busy world, where there is always one more thing to do, be our guide in the darkness of conflict, depression, family concerns, health issues. You lead us even in the valley of the shadow of death. Be with us, comfort us, guard us. In the stillness of prayer, renew us, lift us from the rock we are caught in, and bring us peace. In Jesus name we pray, Amen

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Holy One, as we prepare to hear the wisdom of your Word, help us to be receptive. Help us to be curious about what you might want us to hear, to feel, and to understand anew. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Psalm 23

VU 749

John 10:11-18

This is the witness of God's people. Thanks be to God.

Hymn: *Are You a Shepherd?*

MV 126

Reflection

GOD NURTURES – WE RESPOND

Offering

Offering Hymn: **This is the Day That God Has Made**
(Refrain Only)

VU 175

Offering Prayer

God of constant love, you have guided your people in all times and ages. May we who offer you our praise today always be ready to follow where you lead; we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our

Lord. Amen

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be. Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

**For your reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

GOD GOES WITH US INTO THE WORLD

Closing Hymn: *Come Touch Our Hearts*

MV 12

Commissioning & Benediction

The risen Spirit of Jesus is with us, as we leave this church:
bound in Christian community, encouraged to use our varied
gifts, called to stand up and be counted.

**In the Spirit of Christ the Good Shepherd,
everything is possible!**

Fear and death are defeated.

Hallelujah! Amen!

Postlude

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God
Service prepared for Jasper United Church by Rev Dee McEachern