



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, April 26, 2026 10:30am
Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Rev. Jean Ward, Preaching and Rev. Nigel Weaver, Presiding
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music
Fairlawn Avenue Senior Choir
Andrea Ludwig - Cantor**

2.

*Indicates when the congregation is to stand, as able.

Congregational responses indicated in ***bold italics*** and unison in **bold** text.

Screen: Congregational responses, unison and singing in white text.

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Long before my people journeyed to this land
a people were here who had received from their elders
an understanding of creation
and of the Mystery that surrounds us all
which was deep and rich and to be treasured.
We did not hear them when they shared their vision.

***We are not the first to walk this land
to build shelters, to plant crops,
to raise families, to seek the good.***

Together with the first people
we are Treaty People.

***May we know and fulfil our treaty obligations
with gratitude, with respect, with joy.***

Lighting the Christ Candle

***Processional Hymn** The King of Love

VU #273

***Opening Prayer**

**Here we are God,
in the wet and wooly days
of who knows what weather.
Sun beams, rain drops, flurries?
We crave the green pastures and quiet waters,
the assurance of your presence,
and the affirmation of your blessing.**

**But, we are not always so willing
that you should lead us,
or that we should follow.**

**Be our shepherd.
Let us not be ashamed of being so sheepish
suspicious and skittish
susceptible to silliness.**

**Restore us, and lead us
in the paths of right living
restore us and lead us,
for your name's sake, we pray.**

***Introit**

The God of Love My Shepherd Is

E. Daley

The God of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never,
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.
(Henry Williams Baker, 1821-1877)

Prayer of Confession

Minds wander, hearts waver,
stomachs lumber and lurch,
***even as your love enfolds, we withdraw
even as your love enflames, we grow cold
even as your love entreats, we harden
even as your love enacts, we grow passive.
For the sake of that love,
forgive us, we pray.***

Sharing Peace

The room was locked and barred,
as we are sometimes locked and barred,
out of guilt, in fear,
from embarrassment and chagrin,
because we cannot imagine
that we might ever put things right
or start afresh.

Then, as now, the Risen One
disarms our costly self-protection,
undoes the false securities we hide behind,
and enters in.

Receive Christ's peace.

Let it be ours to have.

Let it be ours to share.

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Psalm 23



The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.

People: **The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.**

Cantor: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want,
he makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still water; he restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

People: **The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.**

Cantor: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil;
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

People: **The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.**

Cantor: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies,
thou anointest 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 forever.

All: **The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.**

Gospel Reading

John 10:1-10 (Common English Bible)

Reader: Kathleen Magladry

Anthem

Brother James' Air

James Leith Macbeth Bain (1860-1925)

arr. Gordon Jacob (1895-1984)

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want,
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green, He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;
And me to walk doth make

Within the Paths of Blessedness,
 E'en for His own Name's sake.
 Within the paths of blessedness,
 E'en for His own Name's sake.

Yea, though I pass through shadowed vale,
 Yet will I fear no ill;
 For Thou art with me; and Thy Rod
 And Staff me comfort still.
 Thy Rod and Staff me comfort still,
 me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished
 In presence of my foes;
 My head with oil Thou dost anoint,
 And my cup overflows.
 My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
 And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my days
 Will surely follow me;
 And in God's house for evermore
 My dwelling place shall be.
 And in God's house for evermore
 My dwelling place shall be.
 (James Leith Macbeth Bain, based on Psalm 23)

Sermon	The Dance of Light on Quiet Waters	Rev. Jean Ward
*Hymn	You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd	VU #210

Introduction to the Offering

Out of love and duty,
 faithful women brought perfume and ointment
 to a garden tomb.

***Intending to preserve the dead,
 they found new life, instead.***

Now, out of love and duty,
 we bring our gifts.

***May they bring life to us and to others.
 Amen.***

Offertory Anthem

Jesus, Fount of Consolation

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
arr. Godfrey Sampson (1902-1949)

Jesus, Fount of consolation,
Who through death has wrought salvation,
Who through heavenly love and might,
Deathless life had brought to light.
He is held of death no longer,
He than death itself is stronger.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

He for us has bravely striven,
Power from death and Hell has riven,
Foes that cannot harm us more,
Fiercely though they rage and roar.
Zion rightly then rejoices:
Sing we all, with hearts and voices.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
(English translation by J. Troutbeck, 1832-1899)

***Presentation of the Offering**

**O Jesus, risen now to bless,
do thou thyself our hearts possess.
Sing praises, hallelujah!
So we shall give you all our days
the willing tribute of our praise!
Sing praises, hallelujah!
Sing praises, hallelujah!
Hallelujah!**

Prayers of the People

Entrusting church, creation, and all human endeavour and culture to God's shepherding let us pray saying:

Good Shepherd, walk with us,
and guide our feet into the ways of peace.

We thank you for all who, on hearing your voice, have followed you. We thank you that there are many sheep, in many folds, and that there are many paths to follow. We thank you that you call us, one and all, and each by name.

Good Shepherd, walk with us,
and guide our feet into the ways of peace.

You desire to lead us by still waters and bring us to green pastures. Yet we are prone to wander off, to seek our own way. When the ways we follow and the directions we chose do harm to the planet call us back. Make us creatures of hope not habit.

Good Shepherd, walk with us,
and guide our feet into the ways of peace.

You bind up the wounded, comfort the distraught, and carry us when our own strength fails. Be present to all who celebrate with joy; cradle all who mourn or know regret, accompany those looking for work, those whose work is unfulfilling, and those who find their workload overwhelming.

Good Shepherd, walk with us,
and guide our feet into the ways of peace.

Your gaze never wanders, and you lose sight of no one, for all are precious. Be watchful of those who are ill or approaching death, may goodness and mercy attend them, may their lives and their living overflow.

Good Shepherd, walk with us,
and guide our feet into the ways of peace.

You walk with those whose lives are overshadowed by grief. Comfort them with the assurance of your presence, set tables before them, give them companions to eat with them, and cups brimful of blessing.

Good Shepherd
***gather our scattered thoughts
 knit together wandering minds
 and make of them one prayer.***

***For we turn to you,
 as children turn to a resourceful and resilient mother,
 as children look to a gentle and nurturing father.
 May your name be hallowed, may your rule come,
 may your will be done, on earth as in heaven.***

8.

***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 rule, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.
Amen.***

***Recessional Hymn** Rejoice, the Lord is King

VU #213

***Blessing**

This is not a blessing for the smug
who simply believed sight unseen.
This is not a blessing for the self-assured
who simply lacked the where-withal to doubt.
This is a blessing for those who've gone before
***whose words, and stories, and songs, and prayers
could fill volumes.***
They shared, and share, this blessing with us,
***we who simply stand
because they stood.***

***Choral Commissioning**

E. Daley

(The choir will sing through once, and then the congregation is invited to join in.)

**May God's love surround you, may God's wisdom guide you,
may God's light shine upon you, until we meet again.**

Postlude

Land Acknowledgement opening section adapted from the 1986 United Church Apology to Our Indigenous Members.

All other liturgy Nigel Weaver ©

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