



*"Good Shepard," Kelly Latimore*

**THE 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**A Service of the Word**

*April 25, 2021 ✦ 10:00 a.m.*



# The 4th Sunday of Easter

*You anoint me, my cup overflows...*

— Psalm 23:5

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ's resurrection*

Prelude —

*Dr. Patricia Snyder, harp*

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”, ST. COLUMBA, arr. Sunita Staneslow

Welcome

### Acclamation & Greeting

*One:* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*Many:* **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*One:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*Many:* **And also with you.**

### Call to Worship

*One:* With grace flowing, the poet sings the opening lines of the famous prayer, “The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.”

*Many:* **We hear the Psalmist's contentment and wonder about our own.**

*One:* Settled on the ground, with grass tickling their toes, the psalmist rests, “God makes me lie down in green pastures. She leads me beside still waters. She restores my soul.”

*Many:* **We hear their deep need for rest and wonder about our own.**

*One:* With a deep sigh, the psalmist declares, “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me. You prepare a table before me. You anoint me. My cup overflows.

*Many:* **We recognize their bold courage and wonder about our own.**

*One:* Remembering God's faithfulness, the psalmist finds words to carry with them, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.”

*Many:* **We hear their faithful trust and wonder about our own.**

*One:* Holy Spirit of Rest and Renewal, in this time of worship inspire us with words both ancient and new so that we may find the words that connect us to You.

*Many:* **Amen and amen.**

**Hymn** — “When Morning Gilds the Skies”

**this bulletin, pg. 7**

**Prayer of Confession**

*One:* Let us be in the spirit of confession together:  
Holy One, we hear the comforting ancient poetry of the psalmist but wonder, is it true?  
Will you really provide for what we need?  
Will you bring us to a place of rest?  
Will you protect us from enemies, even when they share our dinner table?  
We confess that rather than being only filled with holy wonder, we are also filled with skepticism at the ancient words.  
We can quickly tally up the times we didn't feel provided for or protected from danger.  
We count the times we could not catch a break when we desperately needed it.  
So Holy One, shepherd our busy minds back to the here and now, help our spirits forgive the grudges we hold, and invite us to experience You as truly present.  
In these moments of quiet, offer us rest for a moment.  
*Silent confession.*

**Assurance of Grace**

*One:* Beloved People of God, there is wisdom in our questions, but God is steadfast.  
God's presence is unwavering and will accompany us through every terrifying valley.  
God's spirit is unshakeable and will sit with us even in the presence of formidable foes.  
God's love is relentless and will offer us goodness and mercy all the days of our lives.  
This is the Good News. Amen.

**WORD**

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

**Refrain** — “Alleluia”

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Reading** — Psalm 23

**Scripture Reading** — Philippians 4:4-8

*The “Alleluia” refrain (music above) is repeated.*

**Sermon** — “Faith as a Verb”

*Linda Choser*

**RESPONSE**

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*We begin our lives of responding to the gospel in prayer and offering*

**Invitation to the Offering**

*One:* Like a shepherd tending to those in their care, God has offered us rest and renewal, protection and mercy, love and nourishment. In response, we are invited to give a portion of our time, energy, gifts, and prayer so that others in this world may experience the same.

**Prayer of Dedication**

*One:* Loving God, bless these gifts and all the ways in which we give. May each of our gifts be a part of co-creating and tending to the love, safety, belonging, and dignity You envision for the world. Amen.

**Responding with our Gifts**

*During the offertory music, while reflecting on the gifts we have to offer, those participating via Zoom are welcome to submit prayer petitions—joys and concerns—via the “Chat” feature in Zoom. These petitions will be collected together and transmitted for inclusion during the time for prayers of the people. To protect privacy, surnames will not be used.*

**OFFERTORY MUSIC** — “Flower Carol” arr. by Amidon

*Adult Choir*

Spring has now unwrapped the flowers, day is fast reviving.  
Life in all her growing powers, towards the light is striving.  
Gone the iron touch of cold, winter time and frost time,  
Seedlings working through the mold now make up for lost time.

Herb and plant that, winter long, slumbered at their leisure,  
Now bestirring, green and strong, find in growth their pleasure.  
All the world with beauty fills, gold the green enhancing.  
Flowers make glee among the hills and set the meadows dancing.

Earth puts on her dress of glee; flow'rs and grasses hide her.  
We go forth in charity; brothers all beside her;  
For as we this glory see in the awakening season,  
Reason learns the heart's decrees and hearts are led by reason.

Through each wonder of fair days, God herself expresses,  
Beauty follows all her ways as the world she blesses;  
So as she renews the earth, artist without rival  
In the grace of glad new birth, we must seek revival.

*from PIAE CANTIONES, 1582*

### **The Prayers of the People, ending with The Lord's Prayer**

**Many: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory forever. Amen.**

*For the Lord's Prayer, we invite you to use the language most comfortable for you: "Our Father/ Mother/ Creator/ Holy One..."*

## **SENDING**

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*God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world*

### **News from our Life Together**

**Hymn** — "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!"

**this bulletin, pg. 8**

### **Benediction**

**Postlude** — "Prelude and Ciacona, BuxWV 137" by Buxtehude

*Dr. Patricia Snyder*

**Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open** *for those who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee “coffee hour”! Depending on the number of participants, we may break people into smaller groups using the “breakout room” functionality. We look forward to connecting with you!*

# 667 When Morning Gilds the Skies

1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing  
 2 Does sad - ness fill my mind? A so - lace here I  
 3 Let earth's wide cir - cle round in joy - ful notes re -  
 4 Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di -

cries: may Je - sus Christ be praised! A -  
 find: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Or  
 sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let  
 vine: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be

like at work and prayer to Je - sus I re -  
 fades my earth - ly bliss? My com - fort still is  
 air and sea and sky from depth to height re -  
 this the e - ter - nal song through all the a - ges

pair: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 this: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 ply: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 long: may Je - sus Christ be praised!

# 804 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!  
 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,  
 3 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as ye go,  
 4 At last the march shall end; the wea - ried ones shall rest;  
 5 Then on, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.  
 send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.  
 from youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:  
 the pil - grims find their home at last, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.  
 Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

*Refrain*

Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!  
 Re - joice! Re - joice!

## Notes and Acknowledgements

### Acknowledgements:

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- Refrain – “Alleluia”: Music by Fintan O’Carroll, 1981; harm Christopher Walker, 1985; ©1985 Fintan O’Carroll and Christopher Walker; admin. OCP. All rights reserved; reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-719182. Reprinted from *Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press, #587.
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- Service prayers adapted from the Rev. Ellis Arnold, Associate Conference Minister for the Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences of the UCC.

**A Note on Giving:** *We welcome and encourage your financial generosity in support of the Storrs Congregational Church UCC! Giving back to God and God’s mission through the life of this church is a part of your gratitude towards God and your faithful stewardship of all that God has entrusted to you.*

- **Mail:** *You can mail your check or money order to us at the church office*
- **Drop-off:** *You can drop off cash, checks, or money orders at the church office during the week.*
- **Online Bill Pay:** *Most banks and credit unions offer an “online bill pay” in their online account access. All you need to do is set up the church as another payee in that system, and your bank or credit union will print a check and mail it to us at no cost—you don’t even need to find a stamp!*
- **Online or text via ACH debit from a checking or savings account:** *By using our website giving portal (go to [www.storrsconchurch.org](http://www.storrsconchurch.org) and click the green “Give now...” button), you can make an auto-debit from your checking or savings account. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 1% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it is optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 1% processing fee.)*
- **Online or text via Debit Card or Credit Card:** *By using our website giving portal (go to [www.storrsconchurch.org](http://www.storrsconchurch.org) and click the green “Give now...” button), you can charge your contribution to a debit card or credit card. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 3% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it is optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 3% processing fee.) If using a credit card, know that we as a church do not want you to add to any debt load in order for you to contribute, as that’s not good stewardship! If using a credit card, please make sure, for your own sake, that it’s a card for which you pay off the balance each month.*

*If you have any questions about how to make a contribution, or about your giving history, feel free to contact our Collector, Donna Latincsics (contact info available through the church office).*

**We envision our community as a welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community.** *We are an Open and Affirming congregation: Believing that each of us is unique and blessed with special talents from God, each a creation of God's love, alike and yet different, we open our doors and our ministry to all. We accept into full participation in the life of this Church: people of any age, economic status, gender, marital status, race, sexual orientation, and physical, emotional and mental capability. As a community, we will work to put aside all prejudices and to affirm and promote the worth and dignity of each person.*

## **STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

***We share in God's love by growing in faith,  
courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.***

<i>Ministers</i>	All of the Congregation
<i>Interim Senior Minister</i>	Rev. Dr. Debbie Pallatto-Fontaine – <a href="mailto:revdebbie@storrscongregation.org">revdebbie@storrscongregation.org</a>   Ext. 23
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