

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, walk with the Lord this day.

People: **We seek places of peace and rest from the stresses of our lives.**

Leader: The Shepherd will lead you to places where your soul may be restored.

People: **We come, sometimes fearful of the hostilities of the world.**

Leader: In the midst of all the turmoil, The Shepherd will provide for your needs abundantly.

People: **Surely these wonders will heal and restore our spirits.
AMEN.**

Opening Prayer

All: Thank you, loving God, for bringing us to this time of worship. Refresh us and heal us again. Remind us of the many ways in which you have blessed our lives with your abundant love and your presence. Guide our hearts and our spirits that we may hear your words and our souls may be stirred into active service to your people. In the name of the Good Shepherd, who leads us to life, and taught us to pray . . .

The Lord's Prayer

Psalm 23 (NIV) Responsive Reading

Leader: *The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.*

People: **He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.**

Leader: *Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil,*

People: **for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

Leader: *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.*

People: **You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

Leader: *Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,*

People: **and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.**

Prayer Service Meditation

The Appearances of the Risen Christ – The Barbecue – by Rev. Mark Katrick

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor: Our souls are weary, O God. We hear to easily the loud clamor of the world. We witness the terror and trauma all around us. We long for the "good old days" when life seemed so much safer and simpler; when we felt cherished and protected. In this spirit, we have come to this time of worship, seeking your peace and hope. The Psalmist wrote of green pastures and refreshing springs of water, places of rest. Offerings of quietness and comfort flood our thirsting souls. What we would give for such places in the heart! In the midst of all that is difficult, there is one who leads us to these places where, when we have gathered strength and healing, we are prepared to go forth in confidence to serve again. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows our name and our needs. He listens for our cries and responds in love. We can have great assurance in that. We now offer this evening, these names and situations of illness, mourning, stress, and concern which touch our lives and our souls (silence). We have breathed our heart's desire for their healing and restoration. God's abundant love shall flood over them until they are more than filled. God will be with all these dear ones in their situations and needs. And God will be with us, strengthening us, restoring us, healing us, challenging us, to witness to the Good News of Salvation in the name of Jesus Christ. Open our hearts this day, O Lord, and enter into our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. AMEN.

Benediction

Leader: The Good Shepherd leads us forward, from this place, into the world to serve God's people, to witness to God's love in all that we do. Go in peace and God's peace will go with you. AMEN.