

**Quispamsis United Church**  
April 21, 2024 - *Fourth Sunday in Easter*  
**Liturgical Colour: White**  
**Presider: Rev Ian Manson**  
**Director of Music: Stephen Alexander**  
**Reader: Barb McBean**

**Centering Reflection:** *“Of all the images for Christ’s relationship to humanity, few are more unappealing than the image of shepherd and sheep.”*

- Will Willimon

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## **GATHERING TOGETHER**

### **Gathering Chord**

**Introit:** Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah! MV 121 Refrain x2  
**Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!**  
**Hey now! The morning has come!**  
**Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!**  
**The tomb was empty at the rising sun.**

### **Opening Music... An Invitation to Prayer and Candle Lighting**

Christians, We Have Met to Worship - arr. Lani Smith

### **Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle**

### **Lighting of Affirm Candle & Acknowledgment of Territories**

### **Celebrations**

#### **Call to Worship**

Jesus said, I am the Good Shepherd.

**We gather in the name of the One who leads us by still waters.**

We come before the One who prepares a banquet for us.

**We have come to be restored by Christ’s love, and guided by Christ’s Spirit. Let us worship God.**

**Prayer of Approach (Unison)**

**Loving God, our shepherd, guide and giver of life.**

**You nourish our lives and restore our souls with rest and peace.**

**You give us joy so our lives overflows with goodness and grace,**

**offer us courage and compassion when days are dark,**

**and promise to be with us in all times and in all circumstances.**

**Open our minds to your wisdom and guidance, feed us in love,**

**and remind us of your abiding compassion, today and always. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:**

The King of Love

VU 273

**The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
and he is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow  
my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow  
with food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed;  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home rejoicing brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and O what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so through all the length of days  
thy goodness faileth never:  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever!**

## **Prayer of Confession**

**God of mercy,**

**You lead us into green pastures,**

**but there are times when our lifestyles put those pastures at risk.**

**You offer us rest,**

**but we like to pursue our goals,**

**whatever the cost to ourselves or those we love.**

**You call us to show compassion,**

**but we are quick to judge others.**

**Forgive us, and grant us the grace, wisdom and guidance we need.**

## *Silent Contemplation*

## **Words of Assurance**

### **Time for All Ages**

#### **Prayer of Illumination (Unison)**

**Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death**

**and opened to us the light of eternity.**

**Enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit,**

**that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge**

**in the reading of the scriptures,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Reading:** John 10: 11-18

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Response to Scripture**                      **Glory to God in the Highest**                      **MV 124 (2x)**  
**Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.**  
**Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.**

**The Gift of Music**                      **Joy Comes with the Dawn**

**Message**                      **"Who Needs a Shepherd?"**

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn:**                      **Are You a Shepherd?**                      **MV 126**

**Are you a shepherd, good shepherd who leads us  
safely through danger, while calming our fears?  
Are you a father who shelters and feeds us,  
shares in our laughter and wipes away tears?**

#### ***Refrain***

***Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,  
but you are greater than all that we know.  
Holy and living, loving and giving,  
God, you are with us wherever we go.***

**Are you a mother, good mother who bears us,  
comforts, protects us and helps us to rest?  
Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,  
challenging students to offer their best? R**

**Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,  
lead all you children in paths that are right.  
Great, loving parent, wise teacher, you guide us.  
We want to love you and bring you delight. R**

**Life and Work of the Church**

**Sharing of Gifts and Talents**

**Offertory Dedication Hymn:**

**Doxology**

**VU #440 (Vs 5)**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
In heaven above and earth below;  
One God, three persons we adore-  
Be praises given for evermore**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

**Giving God, you are our Shepherd, strong and wise. Bless the gifts we offer and multiply their impact in the world. Use them to spread your love and protect all that is vulnerable in your creation, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.**

**Introduction to Prayers of the People**

**And When You Call for Me**

**MV 96 (2x)**

**And when you call for me, I have already answered.  
And when you call for me, I am already there.**

**Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

### **SENDING FORTH**

**Closing Hymn:**

**Bless Now, O God, the Journey  
Bless now, O God, the journey  
that all your people make,  
the path through noise and silence,  
the way of give and take.  
The trail is found in desert  
and winds the mountain round,  
then leads beside still waters,  
the road where faith is found.**

**VU 633**

**Bless sojourners and pilgrims  
who share this winding way,  
whose hope burns through the terrors,  
whose love sustains the day.  
We yearn for holy freedom  
while often we are bound.  
Together we are seeking  
the road where faith is found.**

**Divine Eternal Lover,  
you meet us on the road.  
We wait for lands of promise  
where milk and honey flow.  
But waiting not for places,  
you meet us all around.  
Our covenant is written  
on roads, as faith is found.**

### **Commissioning & Blessing**

### **Choral Closing**

Christ Has No Body Now But Yours      MV 171 (Refrain 2x)  
**Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.  
Here on this earth, yours is the work,  
To serve with the joy of compassion.**

### **Closing Music:**

Classical Postlude - Haydn      - arr. Thomas Chesterton