

Welcome, All Worshipers

**Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.**

Who is Jesus – for people living in today? And for you? I hear from many suffering people who ask me how God must feel about what they are enduring. I point them to Jesus. We know exactly how God feels because God gave us a face, and we can see Jesus comforting a widow who lost her only son, healing even the servant of a Roman occupying soldier, restoring health to the blind, the crippled, those with leprosy. At the same time, we get a graphic image – like an ideograph – of what kind of life we should live, a life like Jesus.’

~Author Phillip Yancey

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(\* ) indicates when those who are able will stand.  
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Prelude

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

DOTTIE HAASE, LAY READER

(Please complete the Friendship Book as it is passed during announcements; then pass it toward the center aisle.)

***OPENING HYMN: #17 TO YOU, O GOD, ALL CREATURES SING** VERSES 1-4

***Call to Worship (from a Native American interpretation of Psalm 23)**

Leader: The GREAT FATHER above a SHEPHERD CHIEF is.

All: I am His and with Him I want not.

Leader: He throws out to me a rope, and the name of the rope is love and He draws me to where the grass is green

All: and the water is not dangerous, and I eat and lie down and am satisfied.

Leader: Sometimes my heart is very weak and falls down but He lifts me up again and draws me into a good road.

All: His name is WONDERFUL.

Leader: Some time, it may be very soon, it may be a long, long time, He will draw me into a valley.

All: It is dark there, but I'll be afraid not, for it is between those mountains that the SHEPHERD CHIEF will meet me and the hunger that I have in my heart all through life will be satisfied.

Leader: Sometimes he makes the love rope into a whip,

All: but afterwards, He gives a staff to lean upon.

Leader: He spreads a table before me with all kinds of foods.

All: He puts His hand upon my head and all the "tired" is gone.

Leader: My cup he fills till it runs over.

All: What I tell is true. I lie not.

Leader: These roads that are "away ahead" will stay with me through this life and after;

All: and afterwards, I will go to live in the Big Teepee and sit down with the SHEPHERD CHIEF forever. Amen.

***Opening Prayer**

All: We praise you o God, that by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, you have delivered us from the power of death, making us alive to serve you. Free us from pride of self that we may live in community with one another and with all your people. Free us from fear of the principalities and powers of the world that we may live and speak with courage, guided by your Spirit. Keep us rooted and grounded in your love, and fill us with the power of Spirit. Be glorified in our life together; through Jesus our risen Savior. Amen.

***The Gloria Patri (sung)**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. *Words: Anonymous, 4th Century.*

Music: Henry Greatorex. This selection is in the public domain.

FIRST READING: PSALM 23 AND 1 PETER 2:19-25

ANTHEM

CHOIR

SECOND READING: JOHN 10:1-10

SERMON: GUARDIAN OF THE SOUL

REV. JON GOUGEON

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS AND DEBTORS)

***HYMN: #479 GOD IS MY SHEPHERD** VERSES 1, 2, 4

SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERING (PLEASE BE SEATED)

MINISTER: LET US GIVE AS EACH IS ABLE FROM THE FULLNESS OF OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD.

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW.
PRAISE GOD, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW.
PRAISE GOD ABOVE, YE HEAVENLY HOST.
PRAISE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST. AMEN.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION (ALL): ALL GOOD GIFTS ARE FROM GOD.
WE SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH GRATITUDE. MAY WE GIVE WITH PASSION FOR
JUSTICE, AND WITH GOD'S LOVE GUIDING OUR PATHS. AMEN.**

***CLOSING HYMN: #252 SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US** VERSES 1-3

*Minister: Let us join together and read responsively:

***All: Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those**

who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.

***BENEDICTION**

Minister: Remember this: the world will tell you the best response to suffering is to turn away. Yet the Guardian of our souls came near to our suffering and calls us to do the same. As you leave this place, how will you be a healing companion with your neighbors who are suffering, isolated, and struggling? May you go in peace to bring peace to all you meet. Amen.

***UNISON RESPONSE:** And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God’s hand. Amen. *Words/music by Michael Joncas. Copyright 1979 OCP. Permission to reprint/stream obtained from One License #A-739847.*

Postlude

OUR APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS MORNING’S WORSHIP MINISTRY

Lay Reader: **Dottie Haase** Altar Guild: **Sandy Jarmuzewski**
Ushers: **Lynne Stewart and Pat Labadie** Greeter: **Lynne Stewart**
Counter: **Ashley Wedge**
Fellowship Hosts: **Bill & Dottie Haase, Gary & Sandy Jarmuzewski and Penny Anderson**

This Week’s Calendar

Sunday	April 30	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service and Fellowship Time
		11:15 a.m.	Family & 50-Year Member Planning Mtg.
Monday	May 1	4:30 p.m.	Worship Committee Meeting
Thursday	May 4	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

Announcements

- ❖ Trinity Episcopal Church is hosting their annual Victorian Tea next Saturday, May 6, 1:00-2:30pm and 3:00-4:30pm. Please call 989-356-0576 for reservations.
- ❖ Please remember to check for care letters and cards in the middle hall.

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVE-STREAMED AND RECORDED -- Our Sunday worship services are live-streamed, shown on the Internet, as they are happening and recorded for viewing online later. People in the sanctuary attending the Sunday services may be seen as part of the live-stream and recording.

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A unisex handicap-accessible restroom is located through the doors to your left as you exit the sanctuary. A ladies’ room is near the Lockwood Street entrance. A men’s room is in the middle hallway.  
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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 30, 2023

*We welcome people as they are,
share Jesus as He is, and serve
our community and the world in love.*



Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case, Pastor Emeritus
Part-Time Interim Pastor: *Reverend Jon Gougeon*
Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*
Office Administrator: *Judy Suszek*
Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*
Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*

Live-stream Technician: *Brayden Broad*
Office hours: 9:00am – 1:00pm, Monday – Thursday
Phone: (989) 356-1795

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