



**Church of the Redeemer United Church of Christ
Order of Worship for May 3, 2020**

Fourth Sunday of Easter

*Love only grows by sharing. You can only have more for yourself
by giving it away to others. ~ Brian Tracy*

Prelude

Jason Aquila, Organist

Call to Worship

ONE: Springtime changes are bursting forth around us.

MANY: The earth awakens from winter with a display of wondrous color.

ONE: The cycle of living and dying continues.

MANY: As it has for ages past and will for ages to come.

ONE: Lent has passed and the celebration of Easter Sunday is over.

**MANY: But the message of new life, new awakenings, and new possibilities
remains with us. Glory to God! Alleluia!!**

Hymn #70

God is Here! As We Your People Meet

Prayer of Invocation

**We are standing at the gate, o loving Shepherd, not sure about the journey.
But you have called our names, and in your voice we hear such love and
surety. Bring us safely on the journey and strengthen us that we may serve
you in all that we do. Amen.**

Children's Message

Margaret Borrelli

Special Music

The Prayer
Foster/Sager/Testa/Renis
Cory Svette, Tenor

Scripture

Julie Barnes

Psalm 23 (NRSV), Acts 2:42-47 (NRSV)

ONE: Our God is still speaking.

MANY: Thanks be to God

The Gospel *John 10:1-10 (NRSV)*

Message *Open the Gate* The Rev. R. Brooke Baker

The Pastor's Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Patient and loving God, we stand at the gate and peer through. We keep creating our own ways, believing that we know what is in our own best interest, and we ignore the voice of the one Shepherd who will guide us to peace and hope. We wander aimlessly and then wonder why we get so lost. Help us stop and listen to the Shepherd's voice. Let us place our trust in the Shepherd who has never failed us, who loves and guides our lives. Amen.

Hymn #347 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

The Sacrament of Communion

Communion prayer

Shepherd God, we know you as the Good Shepherd. As our shepherd you feed your flock with gentleness and tenderness. You know our names. You have prepared this table for us to nourish our souls. Thank you for this wonderful gift of life so that we may live faithfully and fully in your love. Amen.

Blessing of the elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed One, who calls us and whose voice we recognize. Through the bread and the cup we have been fed, so that just as you have opened the gate for us, we can go forth from this time together and open the gate for those in need in our world. May our voices be recognized as yours and may hearts and lives be changed. Amen.

Hymn #252 *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Benediction

Postlude *Jason Aquila, Organist*

*Call to Worship by Wheadon United Methodist Church Worship Commission in **Bread for the Journey** edited by Ruth C. Duck; Prayer of Invocation and Prayer of Confession adapted from **Worship Connection** at ministrymatters.com; Communion Prayer adapted from **Fed by God's Grace** by Michael E. Dixon and Sandy Dixon.*