

TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

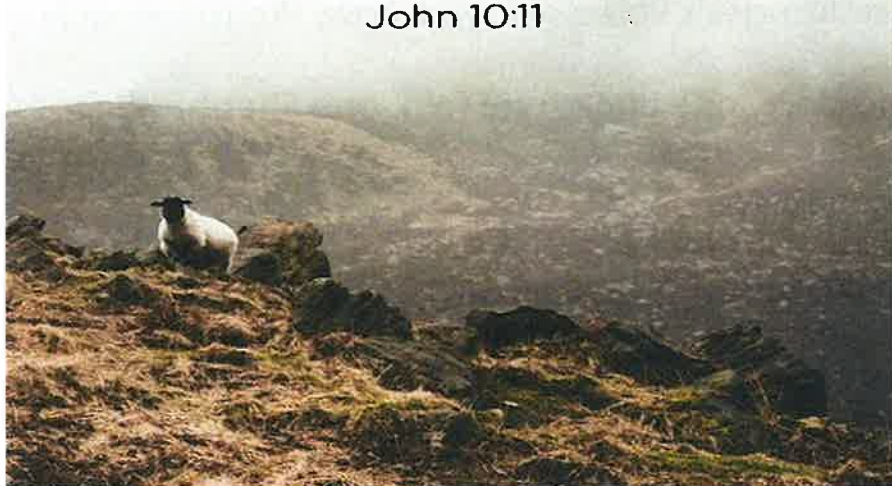
APRIL 21, 2024 9:30 AM

THE REV. RICHARD G. REED, PASTOR

I am the good shepherd.

The good shepherd lays
down his life for the sheep.

John 10:11



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

-WE GATHER TO WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD –

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Tully United Community Church would like to acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation, Fire-keepers of the Haudenosaunee, the indigenous peoples on whose ancestral lands our buildings now stand.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Officiant: Grace and peace to you through God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. We welcome all who have come to worship our God – those who are here in person, and those who have joined us via social media. Are there any announcements to come before us? [Announcements] Let us begin.

PRELUDE

“Here I Am, Lord”

D. Schutte

GREETING

Officiant: Jesus said; “I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. ” We enter, and in this sacred space we find comfort, nourishment, joy, and rest for our souls.

CENTERING SONG

"You Are Risen"

Jim Kerr-Whitt

**You are risen, and in you I am changed.
You are with us, and You promise to remain!
You are Life to me, Lord!**

MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Liturgist: Open the gate! The Shepherd is coming!

People: We hear his glad voice, calling us by name, leading us to green pastures.

Liturgist: No stranger's voice will we follow. We follow only the One who brings us home.

People: One door, one flock, one fold, one Shepherd. Open the gate! The Good Shepherd comes!

Liturgist: Let us pray.

Almighty God, who sent Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to gather us together: receive the praises of your thankful people this day as we offer ourselves to you. Reorder our lives that with courage we might meet the days ahead. May we not wander from your flock, but follow where Christ leads us, knowing his voice and staying near, until we are safely in your fold, to live with you forever. This we pray through Jesus Christ, the Risen One. Amen.

****HYMN**

"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"

#318

**1. The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.**

**2. My soul He doth restore again;
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.**

**3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.**

**4. My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.**

**5. Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.**

PASSING THE PEACE

Officiant: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

-WE REJOICE IN THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS-

FIRST LESSON

Acts 4:5-12

Liturgist: After Peter and John are arrested for healing a man and proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus, Peter defends the faith before the rulers.

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Here ends the reading.

PSALTER

Psalm 23 Resp. 2

#137

R  The Good Shepherd comes that we may have life and have it abundantly. 

All: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. **R**

SECOND LESSON

First John 3:16-24

Liturgist: In this first letter, John speaks to his readers about the love we show one another and the assurance of the love of God.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Here ends the reading.

****GLORIA PATRI**

#70

**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. Amen.**

****THE GOSPEL**

+John 10:11-18+

Jesus said, "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."

SERMON

The Rev. Richard G. Reed

CHORAL ANTHEM

"The Lord Will Be My Shepherd"

N. Price/D. Besig

In memory of Shirley LeFever, Karen Prince's Mother

LAURA CURRIE CHANCEL CHOIR

-WE BOW BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER-

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "sins")

#894

Bidding: Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus:

Response: Hear us as we pray!

Celebrant: O God, our loving Shepherd, we find safety, welcome, and peace in your presence. Hear us as we lift to you our prayers for others and for ourselves, saying, *Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus: **Hear us as we pray!***

Liturgist: We pray for those in need—those who hunger or are homeless. We pray for those in pain—the abused, brokenhearted and lonely. We pray for the sick in body and in mind, and for those who grieve. We pray for those who seek justice, we give you thanks for accountability, we strive for equity.

*Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus: **Hear us as we pray!***

L: For those who hunger and thirst, who are lost and alone, who yearn to be given new direction, new hope and new life, we pray that you would care for them through us. Let us be seen and known as your faithful flock in this

community. Help us to uphold your name by living with faithfulness and trust in you.

*Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus: **Hear us as we pray!***

L: For the life of this faith community and all those who put their trust in you for all their todays and all their tomorrows, we pray that your lovingkindness to the world would be offered through our hands, our words, our deeds, our hearts. Like a loving shepherd lead our congregation, O God, into the mission and ministry you would have us do in this community and in your name.

*Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus: **Hear us as we pray!***

L: Free us, Lord, as your own people, to sing your praise in the work of our everyday lives. In those comings and goings of our simple and complicated living, make us instruments of your peace and grace in weary days with weary people. Cause us to care more deeply for your Creation and give us the courage to make the changes we must make to save the earth from destruction.

*Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus: **Hear us as we pray!***

L: Hear us, Lord, as we lift to you the special needs we bring this day for those we have named aloud and those we bring to you in the silence. *(silence)* Bless our memories of those who are departed, O God, that in our remembering we may partake of the mystery that is eternal life in its fullness.

*Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus: **Hear us as we pray!***

Celebrant: Carried upon your shoulders, we find our refuge. In your gentle care we find our home. And in your living Spirit we are united this day, Lord, as we offer to you our prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, the guardian and shepherd of our souls, who taught us to pray, saying:

**“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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.”**

-WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD-

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Celebrant: The bounty of God's grace has blessed us in so many ways. God's love was manifested in the ultimate gift of Jesus, the Christ. Let us demonstrate our love through the sharing of our time, talent, and treasure that God may be glorified.

**DOXOLOGY, PRESENTATION, AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

#95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God, above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Word, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Officiant: "Your sure provisions, gracious God, attend me all my days; O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise." Everything we are and everything we have are the gifts of You most gracious Giver, whose provisions are sure, unending, and generous. May we follow you, Good Shepherd, not only in plains of comfort but also in valleys of difficulty and in pathways of service. Receive the gifts we bring as part of that life of service, in Jesus' name. Amen.

-WE ARE SENT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS-

**HYMN

"Alleluia! Sing To Jesus"

Insert

New words by Jim Kerr-Whitt

BENEDICTION

Officiant: May God the Father, who raised Christ Jesus from the dead, continually show loving-kindness toward us.

May God the Son, Victor over sin and death, grant us a share in the joy of his resurrection.

May God the Spirit, giver of light and peace, renew our hearts in God's love. And Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you, now and always.

People: Amen. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"Thy Word"

M. Smith

****Indicates to rise if you are able**

Thoughts to Ponder After Worship:

- How difficult is it for you to stand up to those of opposing views and speak your truth?
- How has God sustained you through your dark valleys in life?
- What are ways we show love for one another in this congregation?
- What does Jesus mean when he says, "I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold"?
What is the implication for our ministry?

(new lyrics to)

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

for Eastertide

Text: James S. Kerr-Whitt

1. Al- le- lu-__ ia! Sing __ to Je-__ sus! Liv- ing Christ, E- ter-__ nal One!
2. Al- le- lu-__ ia! You __ we hon-__ or. You a- lone we prize and a- dore!
3. Al- le- lu-__ ia! You __ now with __ us! Make us hun- ger, cause us to thirst
4. God, we know __ that, should we re- ceive __ You, You will change our "ev- __ ry thing."

Al- le- lu-__ ia! Seek __ His Pres-__ ence, He whom to all the faith-__ ful comes!
Al- le- lu-__ ia! Turn __ us, Je-__ sus, t'ward __ the goal for-ev-__ er more.
for a glimpse of You-__ Our- Glo-__ ry, You __ our trea- sure, great-__ est worth!
You may cause __ us hard __ tran- si-__ tions as to us New Life __ You bring.

Al- le- lu-__ ia! Ris- en Sav-__ ior! Still our strength, __ our hope, __ our guide.
Know- ing You-__ All- Else- Sur- pass- ing; Shep- herd, Friend __ to You __ we sing!
As You came __ to Your dis- ci-__ ples and to folk __ down through __ the years,
Ev- 'ry hab-__ bit, ev- 'ry val-__ ue sub- ject to __ Di- vine __ con- trol.

Rul- ing a King- dom with- in, __ a- mong __ us! In __ His Spir- it let us a- bide.
Grant __ us now __ the gift of Your be-__ ing with __ us as __ our praise we bring!
Come __ to each __ of us __ Your Peo-__ ple, o-__ ver come __ our doubts and fears.
Still, __ des- pite __ our hes-__ i- ta-__ tions, Your __ great dream __ on us __ be- stow!