

Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Pastor

~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

ORGAN PRELUDE:

~WELCOME~

GREETING:

Pastor: May this season become an opportunity for to invite a family member, neighbor, friend to join you, be with you in worship. May this time be an opportunity to share the goodness of God, the sacredness of life that you have found, that has become a blessing for your life as you're drinking from your saucer, cause your cup has overflowed.

CENTERING MUSIC:

*CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsively)

Heavenly Father, help us to...

Fast from judging others;

P: feast on the Christ dwelling in them.

Fast from emphasis on differences;

P: feast on the unity of life.

Fast from displeasure;

P: feast on gratitude.

Fast from covetous greed,

P: feast on generous self-giving

Fast from complaining;

P: feast on appreciation.

Fast from bitterness;

P: feast on forgiveness

Fast from self-concern;

P: feast on compassion for others.

Fast from thoughts that weaken;

P: feast on enthusiasm.

Fast from laziness;

P: feast on promises that inspire.

Fast from rigid self-interest,

P: feast on justice for all.

Fast from the desert of worthlessness,

P: feast on the milk and honey of God's Kingdom.

*PRAYER: (UNISON)

Life-Giving God, you put out the 'Welcome' mat for us as we gather to worship you. You nourish our souls and bodies through your goodness and tender mercies; you heal our life's wounds; and your generous love fills us to overflowing. You give us an honored place at your table, and invite us to stay with you as your guest forever. You have promised that your unfailing love will stay with us always, and for this, we give you our thanks. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Even when our cups run dry, God's grace overflows. Even when our plates are empty, God's generosity overflows. And even when our hearts feel barren, God's love overflows. Friends, you have been called and claimed by the God of all things, and by the abundance of God's grace, and by the power of God's love, your sins have been forgiven. Amen.

HYMN:

"Grace Alone"

TFWS 2162

~WE PROCLAIM~

~ Psalm 23 New Living Translation (NLT) (Unison)

The Lord is my shepherd. I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

L: The Word of God for the People of God. P: Praise to the Living Word.

SERMON:

"Drinking from the Saucer"

Pastor Clarissa

HOLY EUCHARIST

This table is for all of us, near and far, high and low, east and west and north and south. This table is for all of us, but it is not our table. It's not a Methodist table. It's not an American table. It's God's table, for all of us, and it's a table of grace. So, come and take your place at the table. You are welcome, you are invited, you are called: come, let us share this meal together.

For Holy Communion this morning, we sanctify our time and many tables for a sacrament never confined to sanctuaries or precious surfaces carved with "Do this in Remembrance of Me," but always following wherever one of God's precious children, like a sheep astray, is lost or needs guiding. Christ is our shepherd. In the loneliest lockdown, we do not want for companionship. In separated families, varieties of learning venues and never catching our breath, we find an inner source of still waters. In the soul-stretching days of health care and emergency professionals, decision-makers for others, and essential workers with daily risk, we meet a restorer of souls.

In the paths of tight-ousness —assisted living, correctional facility, shelter, immigration detention, nursing home, housing for those who are simply poor —we find a leader, a staff to lean on, a rod that points a new way. Christ leads us not around it, but through the valley of the shadow —and turns to us, as Jesus did when he came through the walls of a locked room in the afternoon of resurrection, said, "*Peace be with you,*" and then asked if they had anything to give him to eat. Give the gentle Shepherd who is the Risen Christ your bread, your cup, and your heart.

Pastor: We have bread and cup and heart. Our church community is dispersed in distance but we are one in Christ. In your many kitchens and living rooms, rest your hands lightly upon these elements which we set aside today to be a sacrament. Let us ask God's blessing upon them and upon us and upon those who are in our prayers this morning.

Unison: Gentle Host, you prepare a table before us in the threatening presence of a pandemic virus. You anoint our hearts, bless our bread, and make our cups overflow. Surely as we continue to shelter in place we find both the goodness of community and mercy to those most vulnerable. Now and all the days of our lives we claim that this house — these many houses where we dwell and also our precious church building — are, indeed, the house of God. Send your Spirit of life

and love, power and blessing upon your children so that this Bread may be broken and gathered in love and this Cup poured out to give hope to all. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you. Amen.

Pastor: We remember the sharing of bread in many places: wilderness manna, tents and caves of shepherds, Circuit Rider's saddle bags, the lunch of a small boy, the fish of the disciples, and the loaf of Emmaus. And we remember that Paul the apostle wrote letters to congregations throughout places we now call Greece, Turkey, and Macedonia, and they were the first "remote" worship resources, including these Communion words sent to the church at Corinth:

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Pastor: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

People: We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

Pastor: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

People: We are one in Christ in the cup we share.

Pastor: Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of grace, rejoicing that, in the holy dispersion of virtual worship, we claim the risen Christ's love is not limited by buildings made with human hands nor contained in human ceremonies, and celebrating the shepherding of God that carries us into the unknown, to listen and to follow, to lead and to be led, to feed and to be fed.

Unison: Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need your tender care. In your pleasant pastures feed us for our use your folds prepare. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Unison: Gracious God, we offer our thanks, for the whole communion of saint's witness to this feast, and for the ministry of churches around the world who gather with us today. By this broken bread may we each be restored for the work yet to come. By this shared cup may we each be claimed for the proclamation of your Kingdom. At this shared table may we be united as children of your promise,

children of your word, dying and made new again, sent boldly together into the world as servants of your peace. Amen.



Preparation: Communion items—**chalice (cup), plate, bread, wine (grape juice), oil.** If you have a low altar you can take them there. Otherwise place the items on the floor or a low table. For them to see.

Gather the children. What are all these items? Yes, they are for communion. Let's go through each one (show them the items and briefly say what they are for). When you get to the oil, talk about how oil is a symbol of healing and of calling or marking as one who is God's. We use oil in prayers of healing as we say the words you are healed by the holy spirit and marked them on the forehead with the sign of cross of Christ forever.

Communion—
 the Eucharist —
 the Lord's Supper —
 the Mass —
Is one of the sacraments of the Church

This sacrament is known by different names in different churches:
Holy Communion — the word "communion" means a close relationship; sharing the bread and wine or grape juice is something that we do together in community
The Eucharist — "Eucharist" is a Greek word meaning "thanksgiving"; we give thanks to God for God's great gift of new life through Christ's life, death, and resurrection
The Lord's Supper — this is the Christian family meal; we remember that during Jesus' last supper with his disciples he said, "Do this in remembrance of me."
The Mass — this name comes from the final words of the traditional Latin words used during the sacrament, "ite, missa est," which means, "Go, you have been sent."

This is a special time when Christians share bread and wine (or grape juice) together and remember Jesus. During the last meal that Jesus had with his friends before the crucifixion, he took a loaf of bread and a cup of wine and shared it with them. Jesus asked his friends to remember him every time they shared bread and drank wine together.

In the sacrament of Communion, the church acts out the drama of God's love for humankind. God's grace comes to us through things we can see and touch and taste. In Communion, God comes to us in the bread and the wine (sometimes called "elements"), symbols that we can touch and taste. We bring to the table bread and wine, which represent our daily life and work. We receive back again the bread and wine, now transformed by God's Spirit into symbols of God's love and grace. And we, as followers of Jesus, still do that today.

The Psalm for today is Psalm 23. Read the psalm and be sure to emphasize verse 5 that refers to the table being prepared. What do you hear in that psalm? I hear words of promise and comfort and that Jesus will prepare a table for us and an anointing for us that marks us as belonging to God and asks us to live as Christians in the world. God promises to nourish us, gives us what we need to live our life and to be forever at God's table. *(You can take the option to say more about communion here if you like)*

Let's pray together:
God you promise to be our Shepherd, to take care of u and lead us in the right direction. Even when we are scared or in a dark place we know you will be there. Thank you for making a table for us to remind us of your forgiveness and grace. Amen.

God has made a place for you and seals you by the Holy Spirit forever.

The 23rd Psalm



The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Psalm 23:1
 Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Z	B	F	S	Q	Y	M	N	X	W	G	O	C	U	V	J	D	T	I	K	R	A	P	E	H	L

- 25-12-14-4-24 _____
- 7-24-21-13-6 _____
- 11-12-12-17-8-24-4-4 _____
- 4-25-24-23-25-24-21-17 _____
- 13-12-7-3-12-21-18 _____
- 26-12-21-17 _____
- 23-22-4-18-14-21-24 _____
- 3-12-21-24-15-24-21 _____
- 15-22-26-26-24-6 _____
- 10-22-18-24-21 _____

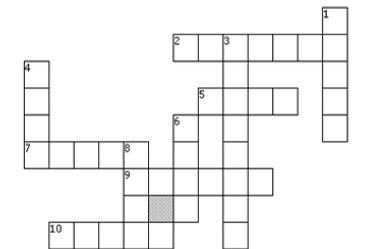
CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

Lord	pasture	valley	goodness	house
shepherd	water	comfort	mercy	forever

The Lord Is My Shepherd



The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Psalm 23:1



ACROSS

- An area with grass or other vegetation for sheep or cattle to graze on
- To be frightened of something
- A building or dwelling place for a family
- An area of low land between mountains or hills
- An article of furniture upon which we eat our meals

DOWN

- To show kindness, compassion, and forgiveness
- One who herds, guards, and tends sheep
- The route along which something travels
- To go or travel on foot
- The quality of being morally bad or wrong; wicked