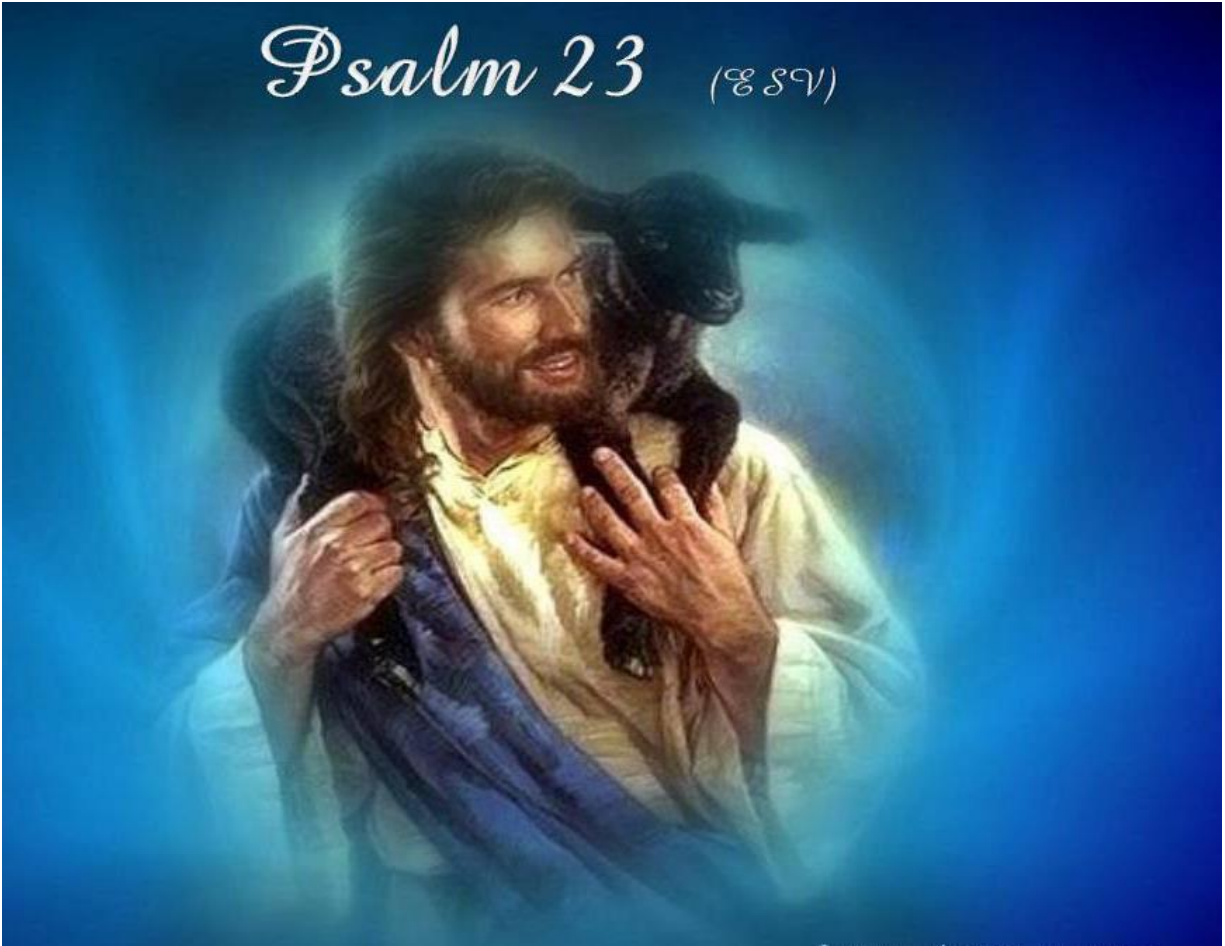


Psalm 23 (859)



Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

Website: www.Mifflinave.org Pastor's email: Pastor@mifflinave.org.

Pastor Russel contact information: Phone: (412) 735-5072
Email: Shulugarussel@gmail.com

April 25, 2021

Welcome Visitors: We are pleased you have chosen to worship with us today. If you have questions concerning the service, please feel free to ask a greeter or a person sitting near you. If you do not have a permanent church home, please consider joining us.

May God bless your experience in worship with us today.
We are here to serve, so please let us know how we might better serve you.

APRIL 25, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
ORDER OF WORSHIP

CENTERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Pastorale"

W.H. Maxfield

(As the prelude begins, you are invited to center yourself for worship)

GATHERING WORDS:

Pastor: God calls us as a shepherd calls the sheep.

People: **We follow our God and we lack for nothing.**

HYMN

"Shepherd Me, O God"

TFWS #2058

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

Pastor: God invites us to feed in pastures of plenty.

People: **God leads us beside the calming waters.**

HYMN

"Shepherd Me, O God"

TFWS #2058

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

Pastor: Even in the darkest of times, we are not afraid.

People: **In the presence of God, we will dwell forever.**

HYMN

"Shepherd Me, O God"

TFWS #2058

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

PRAISING

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN (AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT)

"O My Good Shepherd"

(Sung to the tune of "Be Thou My Vision No. 451)

1. ***O my Good Shepherd, O Lord of my soul.
Keep me forever beneath your control.
In right paths lead me for your name's sake.
All the best choices, Lord, help me to make.***

2. ***When through dark valleys my walk is severe.
Keep me from evil, Lord, ever be near.
Your rod and staff, my discipline be.
O my Good Shepherd, keep watch over me.***

3. ***You spread a table of bountiful store.
Rich are your mercies and love evermore.
Oil on the head, anointing most pure.
Flows in abundance as your love is sure.***

4. *In all you give me, O Lord, hear my praise.
Shepherd most faithful today and always.
Freely you give; my cup overflows;
Nothing but blessings your caring bestows.*
5. *Surely your goodness and mercy will be,
Now and forever, you're dealing with me,
And I shall be in God's house always;
Christ, my Good Shepherd, my confident stay.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come to the Good Shepherd who calls the sheep.

People: With joy, we come to hear the Shepherd's voice.

Pastor: The Shepherd calls us so that we may follow.

People: We trust the Shepherd who loves us and lays down his life for us.

Pastor: The Shepherd leads us to a full and abundant life.

People: We will follow wherever he leads us.

OPENING PRAYER

We come to worship you, O God, because you are the faithful shepherd who watches over us no matter what the cost. Help us to follow the model of Jesus and to invite others into the fold of safety that we work to establish as we work with Jesus for your coming reign. Amen.

INTROIT

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

No. 381, vs. 1 & 4

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

CONFESSING

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess to God and before one another our sins, and especially our failure to be witnesses of God's life-changing grace and love.

GENERAL CONFESSION

We confess to you, O God, and before one another that we have sinned. You are our Good Shepherd and we know that you are the one who leads us to an abundant, joyful life and yet we follow others instead. We know that what they do and say is not in accord with your ways and yet we think that their leadership will bring us to a good place. Call us back once again to your flock and tune our ears to listen to you. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: This is the good news: God will walk with us in every moment, God will fill us with goodness and mercy, God will bring us home to live forever.

People: Anointed with grace and forgiveness, our lives overflow with love for all people. Thanks be to God. AMEN.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

No. 452, v. 2

HEARING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pastor: O Lord, open our eyes, our ears, our minds, and our hearts.

People: that we might behold wondrous things out of your word.

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Thy Word" No. 601 (Refrain only)

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path"

FIRST LESSON

1 John 3:16-24

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM "Psalm 23" No. 137 (Response 2)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia" No. 186

*GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of St. John

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL IS READ John 10:11-18

*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*GLORIA PATRI No. 70

PROCLAIMING

SERMON "Intimately Known" Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

RESPONDING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Pastor: The Good Shepherd calls us to love one another.

People: We come, abiding in love.

Pastor: The Shepherd of love calls us to give of ourselves.

People: We come, abiding in faith.

Pastor: The Shepherd of Life calls us to be a blessing.

People: We come, abiding in God's blessings.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY "In This Holy Hour" H.S. Livingston

*DOXOLOGY No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Good Shepherd, who feeds and clothes and shelters us; who gathers us together and keeps us within the fold. In your care, we need not worry or fear. May the gifts and offerings we bring to you this day testify of our trust in you, and may they be used to bring others into the family of faith. Amen.

SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go now to love, even when love involves risk.

People: We go now to love, as God loves us.

Pastor: Go now to care, even when caring is hard.

People: We go now to care, as God cares for us.

People: Go now to love, in truth and in action.

People: By this we are known as children of God.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Danish Amen" No. 898

*RECESSIONAL HYMN: "Precious Name" No. 536, vs. 1 & 4

*POSTLUDE "Jesus Christ, Our Lord Redeemer" J.S. Bach