

Weekly Readings:

Monday	John 21:15-17
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Wednesday	John 11:28-37
Thursday	John 15:9-11
Friday	Colossians 3:12-14
Saturday	Galatians 5:22-26

Announcements this week:

- ◆ **Monday:** Upper Room Bible Study @1:30 p.m.
Shawl Ministry @ 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Tuesday:** Meekness Circle @ 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Wednesday:** Joy Circle @ 9:00 a.m.
Chimes practice @ 4:15 p.m.
Confirmation @ 6:00 p.m.
Jubilation @ 7:00 p.m.

Prayers:

Roger Vaughn; Kate Craft and Charlotte Bronner

Office Information:

Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 –12:30
or by appointment.

Pastor Allen Craft

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St. Paul United Methodist Church

501 Sycamore St., Box 187 ~ La Porte City, IA 50651

St. Paul

United Methodist Church

Sunday, April 30, 2023



April 30, 2023

4th Sunday of Easter

Prelude ~

Welcome & Announcements:

***Opening Hymn:** "He Leadth Me: O Blessed Thought " UMH Pg. 128

Psalm Reading: Psalm 23 Pg. 435

Call To Worship:

Hear Jesus's great truth:

I am the gate for the sheep!

We recognize this voice.

We've heard these words before.

Come in! You belong here!

You are safe and cared for here!

We recognize the voice of our shepherd.

Follow and find green pastures and still waters!

We hear his voice.

I come to give life and give it abundantly.

Come one, come all!

Opening Prayer:

Risen Savior, Reliable Shepherd we hear your voice calling us to follow. We remember our ancient brothers and sisters who gathered in prayer and praise.

Today, we too gather in prayer and praise. Enliven us with your resurrection power- a power that frees us from despair. Enliven us with your abundant life.

May your living power flow through us in all we are and do! Amen.

Scripture Readings: Acts 2:42-47 Pg 886

***Hymn of Praise:** "Savior, Like a Shepard Leading Us" UMH Pg. 381

***Prayer of Confession:**

God of wonder and mystery, you struggle with us when our faith is weakest, yet you do not overcome us; you meet us in our weakness, yet you do not humble us with your strength. In dark nights of the soul and when the needs of others seem too great, you always stand us back on our feet. When we face overwhelming odds and yearn to find an easy way out, you open new vistas of faithful living. Stay with us when we have need of you, O God, and bless us in our struggles, that we might be a blessing for others in need. Amen.

***Words of Assurance:**

Jesus is our gate. We will enter and be saved. Jesus is our shepherd. We will walk upon his path. Jesus restores our souls and makes us whole. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives. And we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

***Gloria Patri:** UMH Pg. 70

Greet One Another and Pass the Peace of Christ

Children's Message:

Joys and Concerns:

Pastoral Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer:

Presentation of our Gifts, Tithes, and Offerings:

Offertory Prayer:

Thank you, O God, for coming to us in Christ Jesus. Work through these gifts, that the world might know the breadth of your mercy and your grace. Bless our very lives, that we might be faithful disciples and stewards of your love. With gratitude and joy, we pray. Amen.

***Doxology:** UMH Pg. 95

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-11 Pg. 802

New Testament Reading: Philippians 2:5-11 Pg. 954

Message: Pastor Allen

***Closing Hymn:** "Lord of the Dance" UMH Pg. 261

***Benediction:**

***Sending Forth** "Sent Fourth by God's Blessing" verse 1 UMH Pg. 664

Postlude: