

PRELUDE: *(Music)*

MEDITATION PRAYER: *(Silently)*

And into the garden I go to lose my mind and find my soul.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: *(Any Congregant, Please Stand & Speak Loudly!)*

CALL TO CONTEMPLATION: *(Music)* “He Leadeth Me”

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Congregant Response In Bold)* Psalm 23, *(adapted)*

As God is our shepherd; we need nothing else.

- **We rest in green pastures and walk by still waters, which renews and refreshes our spirits.**

God guides us along paths of righteousness

- **And walks with us through shadowed valleys so we are not afraid. The shepherd’s staff comforts us.**

God set the banquet table for us in the presence of our enemies. There, we’re anointed with oil and our cup overflows.

- **Goodness and mercy shall never depart from us as long as we dwell in the house of God. Amen.**

HYMN: *(Please Stand & Sing)* **Red#84** “The Lord’s My Shepherd”

PRAYER OF INVOCATION: *(All Read Aloud - Then All Sit)*

Caring and Gracious God, you are the shepherd who gathers us together today to celebrate with grateful thanksgiving the community in which we live. We are nourished by the diversity of ways in which you reveal yourself to us and bring forth the unique gifts each person contributes. Be with us in this time of worship and encourage us to never cease welcoming the strangers we meet and accepting the gifts they bring. Grant that they will enrich our lives and will be a reminder of the joy that comes when all will be one in you. Amen.

Today we pray for our families and friends who need miracles to be blessed. May whoever is feeling weak be given strength. May all who carry heavy burdens have their load lifted.

SCRIPTURE READING: *(Pastor - See Pg5 To Silently Follow)* Romans 11:11-25

SERMON: “Volunteers in the Garden”

Rev. Dr. Mary Louise Gifford

HYMN: *(Please Stand & Sing)*

Pg4

“Bind Us Together”

INVITATION TO OFFERING: *(Pastor - All Sit -, Ushers Will Pass Collection Plates)*

As we think of the beginning of the 23rd Psalm, “*The Lord is my Shepherd*”; and the words we pray every week in the Lord’s prayer, “*Give us this day our daily bread.*” Taken together, God promises to provide us with what we need to live today so we may see tomorrow. When we think of what we actually have, though, we have more than enough. We give honor and thanks to God when we make our generous offering from our abundance. Please make your offering today for the continued call of the mission and ministry to which we all have been called.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(Sing)* “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Thank you, God, for the ministries of the people of your church. Thank you for the bounty of your blessings you have poured out upon us. We have taken a portion of our abundance and given it to you in grateful thanksgiving. Bless this offering. May it help to support the ministries of this church that will dismantle the walls that divide us so all people will be one in the new family gathered in Christ Jesus. Amen.

SILENT PRAY:

PASTORAL PRAYER:

THE LORD’S PRAYER: *(All Pray Aloud – “Trespases”)*

MUSICAL RESPONSE: *(Musical Interlude)*

HYMN: *(Please Stand & Sing)*

NCH#28

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

BENEDICTION: *(Pastor)*

Jesus taught us that when we welcome the stranger, we create a new community where all are one in God. Let us continue the work that Jesus started by welcoming the strangers who cross our paths knowing that God is with us and protects as we pursue our ministries of healing and hope, and proclaim God’s glory through our daily work. Go in peace.

POSTLUDE: *(Music)*

Credits:

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