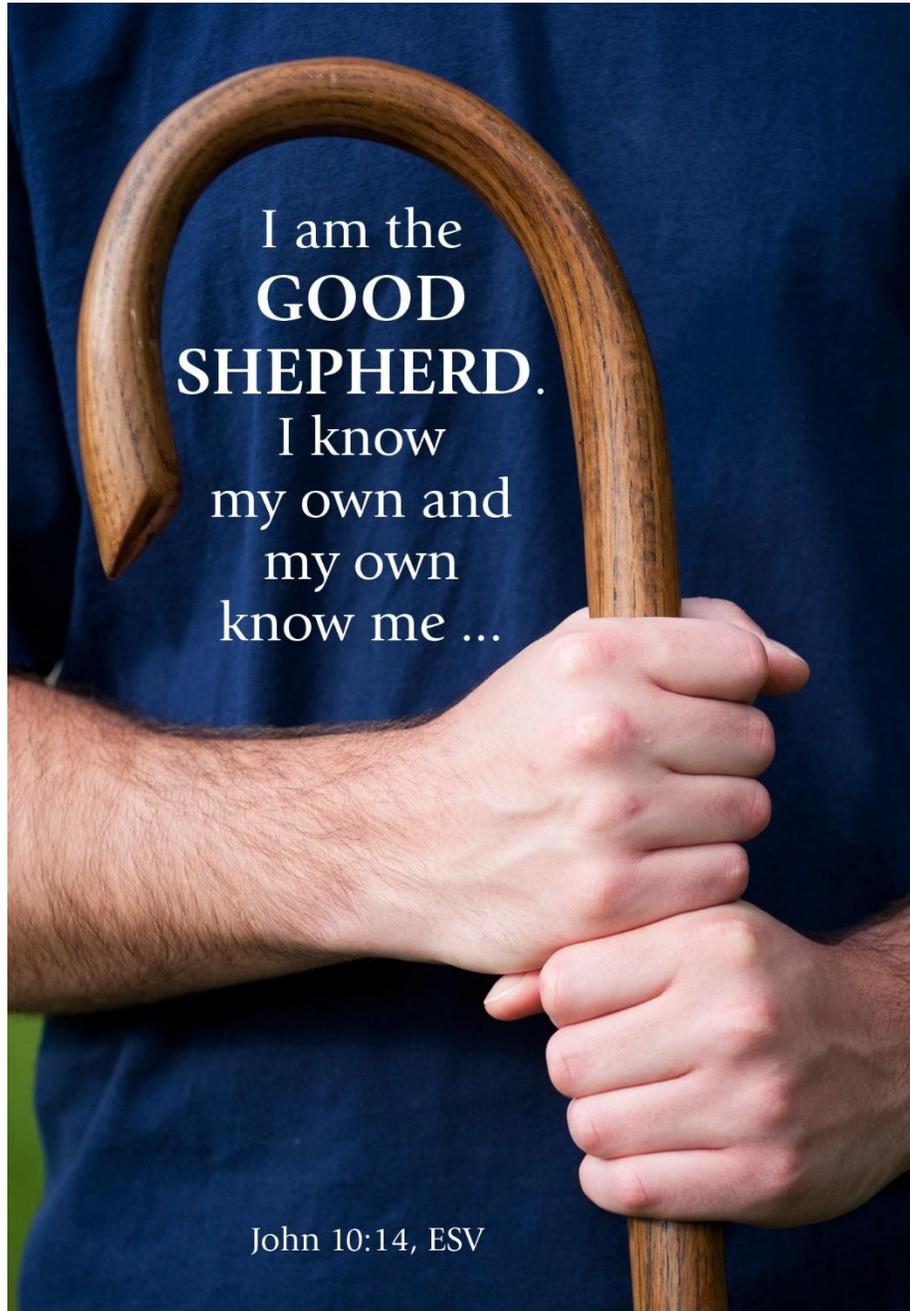


East Parish United Methodist Church

Established 1834

East Parish is a Church open to all, which nurtures and enables people to experience God's transforming love and serve others in Jesus' name.



I am the
**GOOD
SHEPHERD.**

I know
my own and
my own
know me ...

John 10:14, ESV

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25, 2021

*The Book of Remembrance is opened to the Glory of God,
in loving memory of Lena Jean Ilsley.*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you wish to become a member of our church family, or to be baptized, contact Pastor Wichmann at nan_wich@bellsouth.net

- * **OPENING HYMN** *“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”* #381 (insert)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 28)

L: God is my strength and my shield, in whom my heart trusts;

P: With my song I give thanks to God.

L: God is the strength of the chosen people;

P: The saving refuge of the anointed.

L: O save your people, and bless your heritage;

P: Be our shepherd, and carry us forever.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

O God, as we bask in the afterglow of the glorious resurrection of Christ, we come this day a bit put off by being called sheep; that makes us uncomfortable. Help us, O God, to understand that we are blessed at your calling us by name. You know us better than we know ourselves. Lead us to accept the other sheep you call that, as one flock, we will hear the voice of our one Shepherd and be led home rejoicing in your glory. AMEN.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

SERMON

“Good Shepherd”

Pastor Nancy Wichmann

* **HYMN**

“Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring”

#644 (insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You are invited to share your prayers of thanksgiving or petition. You may also send them to Pastor Wichmann at nan_wich@bellsouth.net; indicate whether they should be shared.

PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kin-dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, and the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Have mercy on us, O God. We have been taught to be individuals rather than a single body. We have been taught to rely only on ourselves. Form us into one flock with one Shepherd for your name’s sake. Shepherd us, O Christ beyond our wants, beyond our fears, from death into life. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶ This is how we know love: Jesus laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ But if someone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but refuses to help—how can the love of God dwell in a person like that?

¹⁸ Little children, let's not love with words or speech but with action and truth. ¹⁹ This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts in God's presence. ²⁰ Even if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and knows all things. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts don't condemn us, we have confidence in relationship to God. ²² We receive whatever we ask from God because we keep God's commandments and do what pleases God. ²³ This is the divine commandment, that we believe in the name of the Eternally Begotten, Jesus Christ, and love each other as God commanded us. ²⁴ Those who keep these commandments dwell in God and God dwells in them. This is how we know that God dwells in us, because of the Spirit we have been given.

(Common English Bible, adapted)

John 10:11-18

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd would die for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is neither shepherd nor owner of the sheep, catches sight of the wolf coming and runs away, leaving the sheep to be scattered or snatched by the wolf. ¹³ That's because the hired hand works only for pay and has no concern for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me, ¹⁵ in the same way Abba God knows me and I know God — and for these sheep I will lay down my life. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that don't belong to this fold — I must lead them too, and they will hear my voice. And then there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ This is why Abba God loves me — because I lay down my life, only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes my life from me; I lay it down freely. I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it up again. This command I received from my Abba."

(The Inclusive Bible)

381 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we
 2. We are thine, thou dost be - friend us, be the
 3. Thou hast prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and
 4. Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly

need thy ten - der care; in thy pleas - ant pas - tures
 guard - ian of our way; keep thy flock, from sin de -
 sin - ful though we be; thou hast mer - cy to re -
 let us do thy will; bless - ed Lord and on - ly

feed us, for our use thy folds pre - pare.
 fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 lieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free.
 Sav - ior, with thy love our bos - oms fill.

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! Hear, O
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! We will
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast

Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring

1. Je - sus, joy of our de - sir-ing, ho - ly wis - dom,
 2. Through the way where hope is guid-ing, hark, what peace - ful

love most bright; drawn by thee, our souls as - pir-ing soar to
 mu - sic rings; where the flock, in thee con - fid-ing, drink of

un - cre - at - ed light. Word of God, our flesh that fashioned,
 joy from death - less springs. Theirs is beau - ty's fair - est plea-sure;

with the fire of life im - pas-sioned, striv-ing still to
 theirs is wis - dom's ho - liest trea-sure. Thou dost ev - er

truth un - known, soar - ing, dy - ing round thy throne.
 lead thine own in the love of joys un - known.

128 He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought

1. He lead - eth me: O bless - ed thought! O
 2. Some - times mid scenes of deep - est gloom, some -
 3. Lord, I would place my hand in thine, nor
 4. And when my task on earth is done, when

words with heaven - ly com - fort fraught! What - e'er I do, wher -
 times where E - den's bow - ers bloom, by wa - ters still, o'er
 ev - er mur - mur nor re - pine; con - tent, what - ev - er
 by thy grace the vic - tory's won, e'en death's cold wave I

e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
 trou - bled sea, still 'tis his hand that lead - eth me.
 lot I see, since 'tis my God that lead - eth me.
 will not flee, since God through Jor - dan lead - eth me.

Refrain

He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me, by

Please Keep in Your Prayers

Church of Christ, Ministries of East Parish United Methodist Church, For the slain everywhere, Vicki Hall, for a kidney, Ashley Fowler (Craig's brother), Karlene Johnson, Deb McAdams, Steve Johnson, Steve Smith, Candice Short, Joni McPhee, Ken Eaton, Julie Allred, Corey Amlin (BIL of Martha Murray), Linda Murphy (friend of Samantha Stanton), Victims of sexual abuse and assault, Victims of natural disasters, Division in The United Methodist Church, Deplorable treatment of refugees and asylum-seekers on the southern border of the US, For those whose voices are so often ignored, All who have suffered with, because of, or died from COVID-19, For our country, desperately in need of unity and humanity.