

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 25TH, 2021 @ 11A.M.

SUNDAY BULLETIN



Renewing: Is Anything too Wonderful for Our God? (Hope)

WELCOME to *your* faith community! We are happy to worship with you today and pray that your spirit will be blessed by our time together in the presence of God. If this is your first time at Zion, welcome! If you have been with us for some time, welcome! Welcome back to in-person worship! Please remember to properly wear your face mask at all times inside and to socially distance.

The sensory journey of the Easter season continues with hearing as the emphasis this week. In Jesus' parable of the good shepherd, he says that the sheep listen to his voice. He goes on to tell us that he is speaking not only of the sheep in front of him, but the sheep of other folds too. Jesus often hints that determining who is in and who is out is not really our job. We are to invite and include as widely as possible. To hear the voice of God, we must draw closer to God through our attention to the Word, to others, and creation itself. We need to be open and in the habit of listening to those who are different from us, who have a different perspective, who come from a different background, are of a different race, so we can cultivate ears for hearing the voice of God in different people and in different settings. We want to round out that voice and hear it in its fullness. The invitation is to listen, to carefully listen. But not only listen, to also hear.

God is speaking to you! Not just to followers with more authority or those who are farther along the journey of faith, but to you as well, wherever you are on the journey. The question for us today is not, "Will God speak to me, to us, today?" Instead, will we listen for that voice that is speaking? Jesus doesn't say, "Listen and maybe I'll have something to say." He says, "Listen to my voice." "I am speaking", so pay attention. What hope fills our souls knowing the Good Shepherd speaks to us, each of us!

Is anything too wonderful for our God? Come, let us worship our God, the Good Shepherd, together!

WE GATHER

Gathering Music ✨

"Sonata"

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship ✨

"Amazing Grace"

Call to Community

One: I AM the Good Shepherd.

**All: The one who tends us, guides us into pastures,
who recognizes the sounds of our names.**

One: I AM the Good Shepherd.

**All: The one who bends to heal us, travels through the deepest valleys with us,
who gives up everything for us all.**

One: I AM the Good Shepherd.

**All: The one whose rod and staff comfort us, whose strength and love holds us,
whose cup of love runneth over.**

One: I AM the Good Shepherd.

All: We will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

One: Let us gather here as God's People, in God's love, for God's world.

Psalter Lesson - Psalm 23

A Freebridge Media Video

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet waters; ³ he restores my soul. He guides me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and loving kindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

A Litany for Earth Day (April 22, 2021)

Dear God, this is our thanks for the colors of the earth.

For the browns and golds and greens of the earth.

For the white snow on the mountains and fields of lavender.

This is our love for the waters of the earth.

For oceans that cover, and the rivers that wash, and rapids that roar.

For the life in the ponds and for turtles bobbing at the surface.

We give praise to the sound of the rains that come.

**For the deserts where seasons run dry and the sun beats
till the soil cakes and everything fries.**

For all the creatures who live here below the skies.

For the life that roams in herds across the grassy plains.

For the raptors who float on the winds high before the clouds.

We give praise and thanks and joy.

For storms and heat and the cold that pierces – all of it. Coming from the heart of God who called everything “good.”

This is our home. This blue ball floating before the sun and the moon.

This is our earth. We give praise for its day.

This is our earth. We only have one.

Teach us how to be its beloved. Teach us how to live for its good.

Amen.

Meditative Interlude✦

“Lift High the Cross”

WE MEDITATE

Epistle Lesson

1 John 3:16-24 (NRSV)

Lector: Amber Nilson

¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷ How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Lesson✦

John 10:11-18 (NRSV)

Pastor Katie

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for

the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Message

Holy Shepherding

Contemplative Interlude ✦

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

WE RESPOND

Invitation to Give

Blessing Our Gifts

A Prayer of Dedication

God of love, you abide with us; you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways. Out of gratitude for your care, we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of caring, that all may feast at the table of abundance, walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion. Amen.

Prayer of Our Savior

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

Sending Forth

We thank You, Lord, for re-igniting the flame of hope within us, for filling our hearts with light and giving us a new vision of your Love. Go now, as light-bearers to a world in darkness, go now, as hope-carriers to a world in despair:

**We go in the name of Christ, in the love of God
and in the power of the Spirit. Amen.**

Prelude to Service ✦

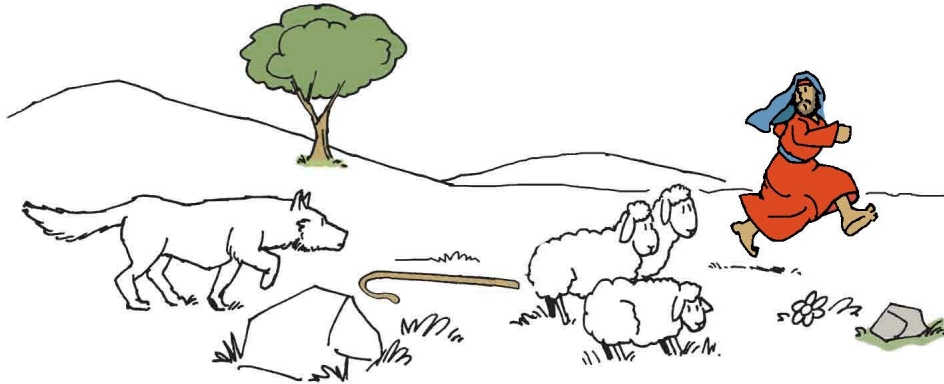
“Festive Processional on Christ is the King”

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

What does Jesus say about the hired hand?

Fill in the missing vowels, in order, to find out.

E I E A I O E E E A O E O O E E E E O E E E E E
O O I E A A O E E E A U A A E E O A A E O A A E I
E A U A A E A U E E I A I E A A A E O I O E E E



“Th__ h__r__d h__nd __s n__t th__
sh__ph__rd __nd d__s n__t __wn th__
sh__p. S__ wh__n h__ s__s th__
w__lf c__m__ng, h__ __b__nd__ns th__
sh__p __nd r__ns __w__y. Th__n th__
w__lf __tt__cks th__ fl__ck __nd sc__tt__rs
__t. Th__ m__n r__ns __w__y b__c__s__
h__ __s __ h__r__d h__nd __nd c__r__s
n__th__ng f__r th__ sh__p.”

Answer

The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

Jesus talks about the Father, the sheep and Himself.
What does He say?

Use the code to find the letters to fill in the blanks below.

	0	1	2	3	4	5
1	P	W	S	L	K	F
2	W	S	C	K	F	R
3	S	L	K	F	R	O
4	L	K	F	R	O	N
5	K	F	R	O	N	T
6	F	R	O	N	T	E



"I o My h

1,4 4,5 2,0 1,2 6,5 6,5 1,0

and My $\frac{2.1}{6.5}$ $\frac{6.5}{1.0}$ $\frac{3.2}{6.3}$ $\frac{1.1}{1.1}$ o

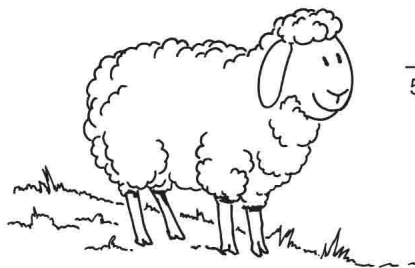
M_{6,5} – ju_{5,5} as h_{6,4} h_{6,5} a_{2,4} h_{5,5} h_{6,5} h_{2,5}

2,3 5,4 1,1 1,2 M 6,5 and I 5,0 5,4 2,0 5,5 6,5

$$\frac{a_h}{6,0 \quad 5,5 \quad 6,5 \quad 6,1} - \frac{a_d}{5,4} \text{ I } \frac{ay}{1,3}$$

d My
3,5 1,1 6,3 4,0 4,2 6,5

$\frac{\quad}{5,1}$ or $\frac{\quad}{5,5} \frac{\quad}{6,5}$ $\frac{\quad}{3,0} \frac{\quad}{6,5} \frac{\quad}{6,5} \frac{\quad}{1,0}$



Answer

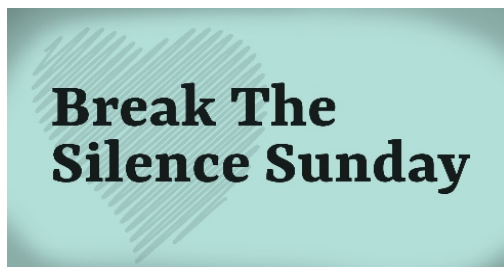
I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep.



The most conservative estimates from the U.S. Department of Justice tell us that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 33 men will be victims of rape in their lifetimes. Let that sink in – twenty five percent of the women and three percent of the men you know will be victims of rape! What those statistics don't tell us though is how many rapes go unreported because of a victim's fear, sense of shame, and overwhelming societal pressures. How many people aren't able to talk about what has happened to them, don't have a safe place to tell their story, don't have someone they can trust to tell their story to?

To create a safe place and conversation, the UCC has dedicated the fourth Sunday of April each year as *Break the Silence Sunday*. We work to ensure the voice of survivors is heard, and honored, their pain acknowledged, and that the community commits itself to the work of ongoing reflection, support, and social change. By breaking the silence, survivors empower others to do the same. By breaking the silence, survivors personalize the statistics on sexual violence. When survivors break the silence, it connects those who haven't been assaulted to the issue of sexual violence in a visible, personal, and urgent way. When survivors break the silence, it invites other survivors to connect with that person, creating communities and connections where healing can occur. When we empower survivors to break the silence, we are acting like Christ with welcome, love, and compassion. We are providing a safe place for survivors to heal. Just as our conference has been encouraging us to share our personal stories of faith, we encourage survivors to tell their story. We encourage healing and provide a safe place without judgment.

May we always be considerate and compassionate of others as the Good Shepherd has commanded us to be.



Additional Resources:

<https://breakthesilencesunday.org>

<https://www.breakthesilence.org>

<https://www.nsvrc.org/saam>

<https://mcasa.org>



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of April 25th



Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School with Kim Ridenour meets at 9:45am this morning via Zoom as they continue their EPIC Teachings Bible Series with the "Sermon on the Mount." Connect your child(ren) by going to <https://zoom.us/join> or calling 301.715.8592, and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: **865 7471 1577** and Passcode: **YouthSS**. For more information, contact Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net.

*"So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries.
Today's trouble is enough for today". (Matthew 6:34)*

Journey Adult Class

Join Adult Sunday School with Sue Graff at 9:45am this morning as we begin our study on Psalm 23, gaining new perspectives on this beloved passage. Connect to this class by going to <https://zoom.us/join> or calling **301.715.8592**, and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: **894 3614 5937** and Passcode: **536055**. For more info go to www.zionreformed.church/adult. *Zoom users may join using **One-Click Join** without entering meeting information.

Repairs Update

Repair work has begun in the bell tower, replacing areas of the bell tower roof, the bell tower floors, and to moving a hatch that is leaking. This project also includes repair of the walls in the sanctuary and painting them. Be sure to look at the color samples in the front of the sanctuary to help select the paint color! Beginning next week, we will meet in the Chapel and/or outdoors throughout the 6 week time frame estimated to complete this project.

Weekly Communion Beginning in May

Weekly communion will be offered beginning in May. Why weekly communion? Holy Communion is a sacrament instituted by Christ himself. We partake in obedience to his command. The Lord's Supper illustrates and proclaims the Gospel pointing us to Christ when we partake of it. It encourages patterns of repentance and faith in our lives. It encourages unity within the church as it includes reconciliation and a constant attitude of humble confession, repentance, and loving forgiveness toward one another. It was an important part of early Church history which seems to indicate weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper. It connects us with all of our siblings in Christ and encourages growth.

General Synod 33



Mark your calendars for this special edition 2021 General Synod of the United Church of Christ, July 11th – 18th. This special edition general synod will be entirely virtual. Registration will open May 1st. Gathering under the theme: Rooted in Love, expect a vibrancy of spirit-led worship with prophetic preaching, music and art-filled experiences that will anchor us. Come, expecting to learn more and connect with the UCC through various opportunities and lend to the forward-momentum of the United Church of Christ. Let Pastor Katie know if you are interested in attending as a delegate for Zion or as a participant in general. Learn more at www.generalsynod.org.

Other Announcements & Reminders

- ❖ Choir Rehearsals are postponed until further notice.
- ❖ To make a special donation towards the new fridge or new piano fundraisers, please send donations marked "Fridge Fund" or "Piano Fund" respectively to the church or donate online at www.zionreformed.church/give.

Records from Last Week

Sunday Worship: 30 in-person participants and 7 online views | **Soup Kitchen:** 21 meals served.



Joys & Concerns



Prayer Requests



Prayer is one of the most important spiritual disciplines of our faith, promoting communication with God, and love for God and neighbor. Submit your prayer requests to the church office to be included on the prayer list. Join with us in prayer as we pray with our Zion siblings and their loved ones: [Kelly Bedard](#), [Holly Bell](#), [Naomi Bracket](#), [Linda Cantilena](#), [Kim & Bill Cook](#), [Crist Family](#), [Ruth Dwyer](#), [Elan Foutch](#), [Mike Heyser](#), [Jeanne France Hvidding](#), [Ann Kalinoski](#), [Richard Lohman](#), [Mike Lorfing](#), [David Ridenour](#), [Betsy Roulette](#), [Donna Rae Seidel](#), [Diana Shafer](#), [Staci Shafer](#), [Darla Smith](#), [Robert Yeoman](#).

Birthdays and Anniversaries This Week

Happy Birthday to **Burnie Clutz** (Apr 26th) and **Mike Heyser** (Apr 28th), Happy Anniversary to Alice and Scott Barr (Apr 30th)! May this year of your lives be filled with happiness as we celebrate the gift of each of *YOU*. We hope and pray that this year of your lives are filled with an abundance of blessings, and for any times of trial that may arise, that you find the perseverance and strength in Christ to prevail.





IMPORTANT DATES

Week of April 25th



Properties Committee Meeting

April 26th at 3pm via Zoom

Christian Ed Team Meeting

April 26th at 4pm via Zoom

Soup Kitchen

April 27th from 5pm-6:15pm. All are welcome!

Social distancing and masks enforced. **Volunteers welcome!**

Search & Call Committee Meeting

Pastoral Search Committee meets April 28th at 5:30pm via Zoom

Staff Meeting

April 29th at 10am via Zoom

Downtown Hagerstown 4H Club

April 29th at 4:30pm via Zoom.

Contact Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net for more info or the Church Office.

We meet at <https://zoom.us/join/join> -- Meeting ID **815 1055 0627** Passcode **899733**.



Plan to Worship Next Sunday, May 2nd, at 11am

In-Person, or Virtually at www.zionreformed.church/sermons.

Children's Sunday School via Zoom @ 9:45am

Contact the Church Office or Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net for more info.

Journeys Adult Class via Zoom @ 9:45am

More info at www.zionreformed.church/adult.



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*Source(s): [IMSLP Petrucci Music Library](http://imslp.org) (imslp.org)

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Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

201 N. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740

Office Hours: 8:30-12:30, Monday through Friday

Facebook: @ZionRUCC

YouTube: Zion Reformed UCC

Web: www.zionreformed.church

Email: zionrucc@myactv.net

Phone: 301.739.7244



Rev Katie Penick, Interim Minister

Phone: 240.418.8028 Email: pastorkt143@gmail.com