**ST. JOHN’S UCC AND ST. PAUL’S UCC**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Good Shepherd Sunday**

**April 21, 2024**

RINGING OF THE BELL

THE PRELUDE

GREETINGS & WELCOME (UCC Identity Statement)

ONE: Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

**ALL: Praise be to God!**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24)

ONE: Day by day, God leads us:

**ALL: To the deep, deep pools of peace, to the green, lush lawns of grace.**

ONE: Day by day, Jesus calls us:

**ALL: To pour out ourselves in service,** **to anoint the stranger with hope.**

ONE: Day by day, the Holy Spirit shows us:

**ALL: The community we could be, the family we are called to become.**

\*RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF APPROACH – *God, You Are Enough* by John van de Laar

ONE: God, you are enough for us;

**ALL: You give us rest in soft fields and beside whispering streams; you restore and renew us, and lead us into life-giving ways.**

ONE: When death and evil come close to us,

**ALL: You carry us through, you protect and comfort us.**

ONE: When others seek to do us harm,

**ALL: Your grace uplifts and provides for us in public view; you fill us with your strength**

**and we enjoy overflowing abundance.**

ONE: We have confidence that your goodness and compassionwill fill our days,

**ALL: And we will stay immersed in your life and presence forever. Amen**

SONG (on TVs) – *Surely Goodness, Surely Mercy (Psalm 23)* by Shane and Shane

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE (St. John’s – Joan Bender; St. Paul’s – Gayle Martin)

JOHN 10:22-30 (NRSVUE)

At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me, but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.”

FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

THE MESSAGE – *Hearing Well*

SONG #247 – *My Shepherd Is the Living God*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*Joys and Concerns*)

THE LORD’S PRAYER (St. John’s: *debts/debtors;* St. Paul’s: sins/sin against us)

**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*/sins), as we forgive (*our debtors*/those who sin against us). And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

#785 (*While the offering is brought to the altar*)

**We give you but your own, what-e’er the gift may be;**

**All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

UNISON OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Graciously you have given to us, O God. Graciously we return your gifts and ask**

**you to bless them. The gift of money, may we use wisely; the gift of skill and talent,**

**may we use creatively; the gift of time, may we use carefully; the gift of faith, may we use joyfully. For we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SONG #252 – *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*THE BLESSING

ONE: Until we meet again…

May the kindness of God precede you.

May the wisdom of God be with you.

May the light of God follow you.

**ALL: So let it be. Amen.**

**\***THE POSTLUDE

***Mark your calendars****: The Joint Councils and the Shared Ministry Advisory Team (SMAT) are planning Pastor Melinda’s Retirement Party. There will be an Open House at Millhome Supper Club, 16524, Lax Chapel Rd, Kiel WI from 1:00-4:00 pm on Sunday, June 2nd. Cake, appetizers, coffee, and milk provided. There will be a cash bar. If you would like to contribute dessert, bars, cookies, etc.; please speak with a member of the SMAT – Kathy Aulik and Denise Thiel at St. John’s; Tim Keenan and Mary Sattler at St. Paul’s.*