

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:30 a.m. Sunday 26 April 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles (including Christ Candle)

Announcements *(To help us connect, please sign the attendance pad in your pew)*

*Greeting**:
Let us praise our God who tends us like sheep,
Who has sent the Good Shepherd to care for us.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us
And we will dwell in God's house for ever.
(Psalm 23)

*Praise Choruses: 2223 "They'll Know We Are Christians
2058 "Shepherd Me, O God " by Our Love"

Opening Prayer**:

**O God, our shepherd, our gate, our lamb:
In the resurrection of your Son you have brought us
into your pasture.
Guide us to your clear streams,
and tame the wolf at our gate;
through Christ our Lord. Amen. Alleluia.**
(Jn 10:11; Jn 10:9; Jn 1:36)

*Opening Hymn: 381 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: 561 *(Verse 1 only)*

"Jesus, United by Thy Grace"

First Lesson: Acts 2:42-47

Psalter: 137 *(Response 1)* Psalm 23 (King James Version)

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:19-25

*Hymn of Preparation: 557 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

(2)

*Gospel Lesson: John 10:1-10

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith: 884 "A Statement of Faith of the Korean Methodist Church"

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

*The Peace: Let us offer one another
signs of reconciliation and love.
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

THANKSGIVING

Invitation: As forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offering/Offertory

*Doxology: 70 "Glory Be to the Father"

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Petition**:
Blessed God, Good Shepherd of your sheep,
your goodness and mercy
follow us all the days of our lives.
**We are, indeed, very foolish sheep.
Help us to amend our lives and to follow
the One who loves us the most.
Wipe away our sin, grant us forgiveness,
anoint us with oil and make us clean,
that we might stand before your presence without fear.
We know of those who are walking
through the valley of the shadow of death.
Give your abiding presence
that they, and we, may have no fear.
Give healing to those who are broken in body.
Fill to overflowing the cups of those who feel so empty.
Make us one with Jesus in searching out**

(3)

**those who are lonely and lost,
those who are hungry and hurting,
that we may wipe away their tears.**

**We know that those who belong to you
are granted release from every ordeal.**

**Hear now our prayers, and accept our gifts,
which we offer in the name of our Shepherd,
Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer: 895

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 115 (*Tune:700*) "How Like a Gentle Spirit"

*Closing Prayer^:

We give you thanks for the place of our rich tradition
among the churches which comprise the Body of Christ.

**With all your people throughout creation,
give us a new vision, new love, new wisdom,
and fresh understanding,
that we may serve you more fully;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Charles Yrigoyen, U.S.A., 20th Cent., Alt.)

*Extinguishing of Candles (including Christ Candle) and Postlude

*Going Forth

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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