

4th Sunday of Easter – April 21, 2024 – 10:30am

Order of Worship

The Community Gathers

Lighting of Altar Candles

Prelude -

A Word of Greeting and Welcome/Centering Words ~

Minister Ainise Isama'u

Be bold before God, for Christ, the rejected one, has become the cornerstone of our faith. Through the Good Shepherd, you are found, comforted, and loved.

Opening Hymn* - *"Hail Thou Once Despised Jesus"* UMH 325

Angela Gricar

Giving God Glory As We Come To Worship

Call to Worship (L: Leader P: People)-

Jason Sasaki

L: The Lord is my shepherd, I will fear no darkness.

P: We will love one another, as Christ loves us.

L: Christ, the Good Shepherd, has compassion for all.

P: We will love one another, as Christ loves us.

L: Open your hearts to goodness and mercy today.

P: We will love one another, as Christ loves us.

L: Love, not merely in thought and word, but in truth and action.

P: We will love one another, as Christ loves us.

Opening Prayer

Jason Sasaki

Shepherding God, guardian of our souls, you offer us rest in the safety of green pastures. Shower us with your love, and offer us fullness of life in your name. When our spirits are parched, you lead us beside still waters and quench our thirst for righteousness; you restore our souls and heal our battered spirits. Touch our hearts and minds, that your goodness and mercy may follow us every day of our lives. May we abide in your love and grace for all eternity. Amen.

Message for the Children (In Us All)

Minister Ainise Isama'u

The Word of God for the people of God

Congregational Hymn – “*Christ Is Risen*” UMH 307

Angela Gricar

Scripture Lesson: 1 John 3:16-24

Jason Sasaki

¹⁶This 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. ¹⁷But 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?

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

L: The Word of God for all people

P: Thanks be to God

Special Music – “*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*” UMH 138

Faith Chancel Choir

Sermon: ~ “How Do We Know Love?”

Rev. Allison Mark

Pastoral Prayer/Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Allison Mark

We Respond to God’s grace

Offering Our Gifts ~

Minister Ainise Isama’u

Doxology* “*Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*” UMH 90, v. 4

Angela Gricar

***Offertory – Prayer of Dedication**

Jason Sasaki

As the Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep, may we, too, strive to serve our neighbors. Whether next door, across town, or around the world, may God bless our prayers, our gifts, and our ministries. In Christ’s name, we present these gifts. Amen.

Going Forth in God's Holy Name

Faith In Action – The Ministry of Faith UMC –

Minister Ainise Isama’u

Closing Hymn* ~ “*For the Beauty of the Earth*” UMH 92

Angela Gricar

Commission and Blessings * -

Rev. Allison Mark

Passing of the Peace* - Postlude