

First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
Sunday, May 11th, 2025

Praise Medley: Revive Us Again
God of the Bible

Greeting and Announcements

Introit: Dance with the Spirit

Call to Worship:

Frayed and frazzled, our lives jangling with tension and anxiety,
we gather to find that place of peace which God offers to us.

Awash in worries and doubts, drowning in a sea of fears,
we gather beside the still waters where Jesus offers us a cup of grace.

Weakened by the burdens of life, wandering as if lost in a wilderness,

we gather so the Spirit can restore our souls and show us the path to the kingdom.

We gather together to worship God, the Shepherd of our souls.

Prayer of Approach: (unison)

Whenever we find ourselves waist deep in stress, you float us on your living waters until we are at peace. As we try to race down every road and alley of endless meetings, you put up a detour sign directing us to your joy.

When we find ourselves empty from chasing down the shadows of sin and death, you are setting out a picnic in grace's garden of delights, handing us a slice of bread spread with hope's sweetness.

Though we try to flee from the very life we are longing to discover, you slow us down until mercy and goodness can catch up with us so, hand in hand, we can race to your house

where we are welcomed in all the moments to come.

Be our Shepherd in this life, Holy One, even as we worship

you today. Amen.

Hymn: Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love **VU 574**

A Time for All People

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

God who shepherds us, you must wonder how long we will continue to live the way we do. We snatch hope out of the grasp of those who need it most. Our acts of kindness are offered only to those we think to be deserving of our generosity. We gather around to watch endless reality shows, while those whose real lives are filled with struggle and loss are ignored.

Yet you refuse to keep forgiveness a mystery, Gracious God, but offer it to us without any hesitation. You gather us in the green pastures of mercy, so we might find hope; you offer us a drink of the living waters so we might become still enough to listen to your heart; you send the Spirit to take us by the hand to lead us on the paths of justice; the goodness and mercy of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, follow us all the days as we seek to be faithful in our calling to serve him.

(Silent reflection)

Assurance of Pardon:

Hear the good news: God will lead us into places of hope; God will give us the waters of life to strengthen us; God will be with us in every moment, in every place of our lives.

Anointed with grace, fed with joy and wonder, we offer blessing and thanksgiving to the One who forgives us now

and forever. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn: Are You a Shepherd

Offertory Hymn: For All Your Goodness, God **VU 549**

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

There are those who have no place to rest, may our gifts provide shelter. There are those who are parched for justice, may our generosity quench their thirst. There are those who wander the streets alone and afraid, may our blessings provide a way. There are those who are in the valleys of suffering, may offer ourselves as companions on the journey. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Hebrew Scriptures: Acts 9:36-43

Psalms 23 **on page 749 of VU**

Epistle Lesson: Revelation 7:9-17

Gospel Lesson: John 10:22-30

Hymn: He Leadeth Me **VU 657**

Meditation

Ministry of Music

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response: Spirit of God, descend upon my heart.

Hymn: Standing on the Promises

Commission and Benediction:

Gathered for worship, we are now sent to work,

to find God in all the broken places

and serve with healing and hope.

Having gathered in silence, we are now sent to speak,

to share the words of Jesus

about justice and inclusion of all.

Gathered for prayer, we are now sent to live,

to take goodness and mercy and anoint

everyone with these gifts of the Spirit.