



**NEW MILFORD  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**



**Good Shepherd Sunday | 04 . 25 . 2021 | 9:30am**



# All Are Welcome!

*You are invited to worship with us in the quiet of prayer, in the joy of song, and in the desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ. Part of our mission is to be a place for all people. All are welcome here! Whatever your gender identity, age, race, religious background, economic status, sexual orientation, or condition of ableness, **we greet each other as beloved children of God!***

## WE GATHER TOGETHER

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Pastor Sophy**

**Centering Prayer**

**Responsive Call to Worship**

I AM the good shepherd  
**(the one who tends us,**  
 guides us into pastures,  
**who recognizes the sounds of our names).**

I AM the good shepherd  
**(the one who bends to heal us**  
 travels through the deepest valleys with us,  
**who gives up everything for us all).**

I AM the good shepherd  
**(the one whose rod and staff comfort us**  
 whose strength and love holds us,  
**whose cup of love runneth over).**

I AM the good shepherd  
**and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**  
 Let us gather here together,  
**God's People in God's love for God's world.**

**Hymn of Praise: Come and Find the Quiet Center (TFWS 2128)**

**Pastor Sophy**

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,  
 find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:  
 clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see  
 all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,  
 God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,  
 making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,  
 raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,  
 let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:  
 there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,  
 in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Hebrew Bible Lesson: Psalm 23** (NRSV, adapted for inclusive language)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
 God makes me lie down in green pastures;  
 God leads me beside still waters  
 and restores my soul.  
 God leads me in right paths  
 for the sake of God's name.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
 I fear no evil;  
 for you are with me;  
 your rod and your staff—  
 they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me  
 in the presence of my enemies;  
 you anoint my head with oil;  
 my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
 all the days of my life,  
 and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
 my whole life long.

**Gospel Reading: John 10:11-18** (NRSV, adapted for inclusive language)

**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 Creator knows me and I know the Creator. 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 Creator 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 Creator God."

*Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God!***

**Listening for God's Message:** "The Good Shepherd"

**Pastor Mel**

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

**Hymn of Response:** *Lamb of God*

**Performed by CAYA  
 of Simsbury UMC**

Your only Son no sin to hide, but You have sent Him from Your side  
 to walk upon this guilty sod and to become the Lamb of God.

Your gift of love they crucified, they laughed and scorned Him as He died,  
 The humble King they named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God.

Oh Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God.

O wash me in His precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

I was so lost I should have died, but You have brought me to Your side to be led by Your staff and rod, and to be called a lamb of God.

Oh Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God.  
O wash me in His precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

## Prayers of the People

### Invitation to Offering

Pastor Sophy

In gratitude for these gifts and for God's presence with us, let us bring our offerings.

Please consider making an offering online <https://bit.ly/NMUMCGive>

### A Choral Lord's Prayer

Performed by CAYA  
of Simsbury UMC

*You are invited to sing or pray, aloud or silently, whichever version of the Lord's Prayer is closest to your heart. You may also follow along with the version printed below:*

**Our Father/Mother/Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### Closing Hymn: *The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want*

Corky Ballard

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want. He makes me down to lie in pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill, for thou art with me and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes. My head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me, and in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

## **WE ARE SENT**

### Benediction

Pastor Mel

### Postlude: *Shalom*

Performed by CAYA  
of Simsbury UMC

**Cover Image:** *The Shepherdess*, Paul A. Gatto. Oil on canvas, 2016.

**Note:** Deep gratitude to our volunteers and staff members who make our worship online possible, and to our congregants whose continued efforts help to keep our community safe from COVID19. We lift up deep gratitude for the collaboration involved in making this worship service happen for the glory of God and the delight of Creation!