



**Grace United Methodist Church – Valley Stream  
Order of Worship**

4th Sunday of Easter/Festival of the Christian Home/Mother's Day/  
United Women in Faith Day

**May 8, 2022**

**10:00 A.M.**

**Greeting**

**Call to Worship**

L: Christ is our shepherd.

**P: We are Christ's sheep.**

L: The shepherd is calling us to join God's flock.

**P: We will follow our shepherd.**

L: Rejoice, little one, for no one can snatch us from the shepherd's hand.

**P: In God's flock, we rest secure.**

L: Come! Let us worship. (AWA, 2022)

**Opening Voluntary** – "Praise, O Praise The Lord" by E. H. Wetherill

**Choral Introit**

**Opening Prayer**

Loving Shepherd, in the midst of sorrow and loss, you wipe away every tear from our eyes. May the wonders of your love reach down to us this day. As Peter raised Tabitha from the dead, raise us also to new life. Help us cling no longer to the darkness threatening to overcome our world, that we may reside in the glory of the Lamb. Wake us from the slumber that numbs our spirit, even as you nourish us in the strength of your Spirit. May the world see the shepherd living in us, and may we come to dwell in your pastures, which remain ever green. Amen. (AWA, 2022)

**Opening Hymn #140** - "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

**FAITHFULNESS**

## **Prayer of Yearning**

The voices of your faithful ones echo in our ears: “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” We long to join their words of praise, but feel unworthy. We know that you are our shepherd, watching over us every minute of our lives. We yearn to join the chorus of those worshipping the Lamb, but we feel unsure and insecure. Open us to the one who wipes away every tear, that we may truly rest in green pastures and drink from still waters. For you alone restore our souls. You alone meet us in our time of need. Amen. (AWA, 2022)

## **Words of Assurance**

Trust the words of our shepherd: “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.” Rest secure that our shepherd loves us, and leads us into life. (AWA, 2022)

## **UWF Ministry**

Tonia Ukanwoke, UWF President

## **Festival of The Christian Home**

~Pat Eshun, UWF Secretary and Communications Coordinator~

## **Westminster Ringers – “Spring Song” by Sallie Lloyd**

### **Scriptures**

#### **Old Testament Reading – Poetry – Psalm 23 (The Divine Shepherd)**

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; 3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. 4 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. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life. **P: Thanks be to God.**

#### **New Testament Reading - History – Acts 9: 36-43 (Peter in Lydda and Joppa)**

36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. 37 At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. 38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." 39 So Peter got

up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. 40 Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. 41 He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. 42 This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43 Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

L: Word of God, Word of Life. **P: Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn before Message #474 - "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"    *PRECIOUS LORD***

**Message**

Pastor Nation

**Congregational Prayer**

Katherine Perkins, UWF Member

**The Lord's Prayer and Choral Response**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.

**Passing of the Peace**

We rest secure in God's flock. In gratitude and thanks, let us share signs of peace from our shepherd, who watches over us. (AWA, 2022)

**Invitation to Tithes and Offering**

Let us be generous in our giving, that others may see in us the transforming power of God. Let us be lavish in our gifts, that others may draw life from the bounty of God's blessings. (AWA, 2022)

**Choral Selection** – "A Mother's Hands" by R. E. Schram

**Doxology** - Hymn #95 – "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"    *OLD 100th*

**Prayer of Dedication**

Kim Neri, UWF Member

**Closing Hymn #733 - "Marching to Zion"**

*MARCHING TO ZION*

**Dismissal with Blessing**

**Closing Voluntary** – "Where'er You Walk (from "Semele") by G. F. Händel

**Liturgist** – Gloria Godinho, UWF Member  
**Reader** – Barbara Woodford, UWF Member

### Mother's Day Prayer

O God, for all the ways your presence and steadfast love are made known to us, we give you thanks. We thank you for this new day, Mother's Day 2022, in which we are celebrating the love of mothers and the love of children for their mothers. We are grateful for how often mothers embody your steadfast and relentless love. For your gift of motherly love, both gentle and fierce, both humble and strong, both kind and true, we give thanks. We pray for mothers who have joined you in heaven and whom we miss dearly, for mothers who work all day and night to raise and care for their children, for single mothers, for pregnant women who will soon be mothers, and for women who have longed for, but never had, children of their own. We also pray for the mothers who have failed to live up to the call of motherhood; we believe you are a God of healing, and we all stand in the need your healing mercies and your grace. We stand in solidarity with mothers who have lost a child to death and who must carry on, with mothers around the world who have watched their children die of hunger, with mothers who stand against a world that kills their children in the name of war, and with women who have been victims of abuse. We praise your name and lift to you the spirits of all mothers around the world, those we have mentioned and those left unmentioned. Amen. (Modified version of a prayer written by Rev. Ben Gosden /UMC, GA. Used with permission.)



**Prayer List.** ♦♥Jim Poch, ♥Christine Doeringer, ♦♥Sylvia T. Brown (friend of Elaine Treske), ♥Rasheen Rutledge (cousin of Naomi Brown), ♥Richard Keller (son of Bert Keller), ♥Lisel (daughter of Evelyn Neber), ♥Carolyn O'Loughlin, ♥Our Military men and women here and abroad, ♥Mason Baker (cousin of Debbie Nicosia), ♥Sherry Schutt (niece of Pearl Hamilton), ♥Thornton Stone (father of Brian Stone), ♥People of Ukraine, ♥Ramona Morrison (daughter of Margo and Vincent Morrison), ♥Averil Wallace (relative of Earl Boyd), ♥Neil Allen (son-in-law of Margo and Vincent Morrison), ♥Pastor Nation, ♥Velda Mathis (sister-in-law of Marianne Pike), ♥Maria Smith (mother of Rebecca Heyward), ♥Kenneth Richardson, ♥Kris Thomsen (cousin of Debbielee Thomsen), ♥Nancy Roman (friend of Sing Larson), ♥Alice Shubrick (friend of Pearl Hamilton)♥Faith Pollack (friend of Sing Larson), ♥Pearl Hamilton, ♥Charles Zipperlen, ♥Anne Mahoney, ♥Douglas Hayes, ♥Ulysses Ceazer (friend of Svetlana Hamlet), ♥Hensbert Neville Brooks (husband of Mahalia Brooks), ♥Kay Hartmann, ♥All United Methodist Women in Rehabilitation and Nursing Homes, ♥Shirley Shivrattan-Dookhi, ♥Juliana Bonds (sister of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Maudlyn and Keible Scarlett, ♥Amy Cooke (sister of Pearl Hamilton), ♥Kenneth Kurz (grandson of Lenore and Manny Kurz), ♥Michael Kurz (son of Lenore and Manny Kurz), ♥Airman Jayvee Kurz (grandson of Lenore and Manny Kurz), ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Castells Family (family of Elaine Treske), ♥Margo and Vincent Morrison, ♥Cyril (friend of Pat Eshun), ♥David Biegler, ♥Iris Molina, ♥Olga Molina (sister of Iris Molina), ♥Everol Palmer (son of Enid Simpson), ♥Evelyn Neber (friend of Elaine Treske), ♥Bill Hammen (brother of Edie Zipperlen), ♥Rondolph Ives (brother of Margo Morrison). **Note:** Prayer List names will continue to be listed for three weeks. After that period of time, the names will be removed unless you call us with current information. †Death in family, ♦New entry

**LAST CALL!!** We are having a Retirement Dinner for Pastor Nation on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. It is being held at the Coral House located at 70 Milburn Avenue in Baldwin (516/223-6500). The cost per person is \$80 and the event will last from 6PM-10PM. We are looking forward to celebrating with Pastor and Desmond as they begin their new journey. **RSVP is needed no later than May 9<sup>th</sup>**. NOTE: We are carefully monitoring the increase in the infection rate of COVID-19. If it continues to rise, masks and proof of vaccination may be required. The safety of our guests is of the utmost importance to us. You will be advised the week prior to the Retirement Dinner of the final decision. You can also call the Church Office for further clarification.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- \* **Monday, May 9, 2022 – United Women in Faith 7:30 PM/Zoom**
- \* **Tuesday, May 17, 2022 – Church Council Meeting 7:30PM/Zoom**