

APRIL 26 2026 ORDER OF WORSHIP

I. PRELUDE: Joyce Block

Joyce's Choice

II. WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPENING PRAYER: Nikki Blanks

A. Welcome

B. Announcements

C. Opening Prayer

III. CALL TO WORSHIP: Dwayne Block

One: Please rise in body or in spirit and join in the call to worship as it appears in your bulletin: Out of a world of cut-throat competition, of winners-and-losers, and too many left behind, we come together.

All: The world's ways are not our ways. The world's ways are not Christ's ways.

One: Out of a world of hatred, violence, individualism, and life-taking power we gather as God's people.

All: God's ways are inclusive, expansive, and life-giving for all peoples.

One: Come and worship the One whose love knows no limits!

All: Praise be to our Good Shepherd!

One: Let us continue to worship, singing hymn #187- Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

IV. OPENING SONG: Joyce

187- Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

V. CONFESSION & ASSURANCE: Dwayne

A. Call to Confession

Please be seated. Now, friends, let us draw near to God with sincerity of heart and full assurance of faith, our guilty hearts sprinkled clean, our bodies washed with pure water. Let us confess our sins before God and one another. Please join me in the prayer of confession as it appears in your bulletin:

B. Prayer of Confession

God of wisdom, we confess the foolishness of our ways, and our failure to follow you in your paths of right relationships –with you and with others. We have gone astray; we feel lost. We have upheld our own interests first, to the detriment of others. We have failed to be generous with the poor, and abandoned our efforts to bring about justice. We feel the stains of our sins, God; have mercy on us according to your steadfast love. Wash the sinfulness out of us, and help us to live more faithfully as your servants. And hear us now as we silently pray before you. Amen.

C. Assurance of Pardon

One: God is merciful and loving and never loses hope for us. When we are lost, God is there on the look-out for us, bringing us back to you like a good shepherd. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

VI. PASSING OF THE PEACE: Dwayne

One: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Now, let us share a sign of God's peace with one another

VII. SONG OF PRAISE: Joyce

Be Not Afraid

VIII. FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Dwayne

A. Prayer for Illumination

Please be seated. Now, as we prepare to hear God's Word, let us pray together: Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

B. Scripture Reading

Our first scripture reading is from the book of the prophet Ezekiel, chapter 34 verse 1 through 15. Hear God's Word for you:

The word of the Lord came to me: "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals. My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them.

“Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, because my flock lacks a shepherd and so has been plundered and has become food for all the wild animals, and because my shepherds did not search for my flock but cared for themselves rather than for my flock, therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against the shepherds and will hold them accountable for my flock. I will remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them.

“For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

IX. SPECIAL MUSIC: Joyce

Joyce's Choice

X. SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Nikki

John 10:1-10

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

XI. MESSAGE: Nikki

XII. SONG OF RESPONSE: Joyce

772- Live Into Hope

XIII. GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

A. Call to Bring Our Gifts: Nikki

B. Song of Thanks: Joyce

Doxology

C. Prayer of Thanks: Dwayne

Please join me in prayer over our offerings: Dear Lord, Creator of all things, everything on earth is yours. We have nothing that can make you richer, for it all comes from you in the first

place. But what we have we bring – the acknowledgment that we live thanks to you, and that without you we have nothing and can do nothing. Receive and bless these gifts for your holy work, and bless those who give offer them to you. Amen.

XIV. PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD’S PRAYER

XV. SENDING SONG: Joyce

In The Bulb There Is a Flower

XVI. CHARGE & BLESSING: Nikki

XVII. POSTLUDE: Joyce

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