



**WE GATHER**  
**JOURNEYING HOME!**  
**EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Introduction** *(Elizabeth Henderson)*

**Territorial Acknowledgment** *(Elizabeth Henderson)*

**Introit:**

**WE ENTER INTO GOD'S PRESENCE**

**Call to Worship:** *(Rev. Roni)*

God of the journey,  
good shepherd, you guide us  
to different places inviting us to stay awhile:  
to have a rest in green pastures,  
to quench our parched throats, with a cool drink from a clear stream,  
and you are there to guide us, each step along the way,  
through the dark valleys of our lives.  
Along the journey, we stay in certain places for a while,  
making them our earthly home.  
All the while you prepare us for our eternal home with you.  
Let us worship God.

**Lighting of the Christ Candle:** *(Rev. Roni)*

We are in the Easter season, this is the fourth week of Easter,  
we celebrate seven weeks of Easter in total.  
The Easter promise is grounded in the resurrection  
of Jesus Christ, from death to life,  
**a promise that we celebrate during this Easter  
season, a promise graciously extended to each of us by God.**  
This is a grace that, through the Holy Spirit,  
bears witness to new life in Christ.

**We light this Christ candle  
remembering that Christ is Risen Indeed!**

*Written by: Bill Perry, Havelock-Trent River P.C. Havelock, Ont., Gathering 2021*

**Opening Prayer:** *(Rev. Roni)*

Good Shepherd, through the myriad places and stages of our lives, you  
are there. You keep faith with us, directing our steps, comforting us,  
anointing us as your beloved ones, leading us to our true home.

Meet us where we are today, bless us and lead us to our eternal resting  
place. Lead us into life. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:** "Are You a Shepherd? MV 126 (vs. 1 and 3)

**Prayer of Confession:** *(Rev. Roni)*

Lord, we confess that at times, our hearts are overwhelmed by the  
suffering in our own lives, in our communities, our province, our  
country and our world. Grief, fear, worry and disappointment can  
weigh us down. In such times, we are grateful for our ancient faith,  
that affirms that you are right here with us, in our time of need,  
whatever season we are in. You, faithful shepherd, you go before us.

**Words of Assurance:** *(Rev. Roni)*

Creation sings your praises. The birdsong brings cheer and optimism  
to our hearts. The bursting forth of new blossoms remind us that you  
call forth colourful life out of dormancy. The greening of the earth  
bears witness to your gift of renewal. Thank you for eyes to see and  
senses to feel and to know your gift of Life eternal! **Amen!**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Prayer of Preparation:** *(Rev. Roni)*

Holy Spirit, help us to open our hearts, to be fully present,  
so that we might hear what you are saying to us this day.  
Bless us with your presence on the journey. **Amen.**

**Gospel Reading:** John 10: 11-18

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the  
sheep. 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. The hired hand runs away  
because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good  
shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father  
knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the  
sheep. 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down  
my life in order to take it up again. 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  
Father.'

*One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ!*

**ALL: Glory to you O Christ.**

Psalm #23 (NIV)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

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.

*One: Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church.*

**All: Come and pray in us Holy Spirit.**

**Piano Solo:** "The King of Love" performed by John Henderson

**Sermon:** "Journeying Home" (Rev. Roni)

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Announcements:** (Rev. Roni)

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Blessing:** (Elizabeth Henderson)

Shepherd of love, bless these gifts

with the power and presence of your love.

May your love bring healing

to a world in need of your touch.

May your grace bring hope

to a world in need of your promise.

And may our love be a sign, for all to see.

that you, who are love,

are present in the world today. **Amen.**

*Written by: Mary Scifres, used with permission from the Abingdon Worship Annual 2021*

**Prayers of the People:** (Rev. Roni)

### **SENT TO SHOW CHRIST'S LOVE**

**Hymn:** "All the Way My Saviour leads me." VU#635

**Benediction:** (Rev. Roni)

Go with confidence, for the Good Shepherd goes before us.

Now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

be with you this day and forevermore,

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**Go now in peace:** (Elizabeth Henderson)

**Go now in peace, never be afraid**

**God will go with you each hour of every day.**

**Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.**

**Know God will guide you in all you do.**

**Go now in love, and show you believe.**

**Reach out to others so all the world can see.**

**God will be there watching from above.**

**Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**

**Postlude**



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