

**Vegreville & Salem United Church**  
**April 21, 2024 - Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Worship Leader: Val Rowe**  
**Ministry of Music: Ellen Johnstone**

**COME IN PERSON, PARTICIPATE ON ZOOM!**

**Mission Statement**

Vegreville United Church welcomes people of all ages to a Christian community that lives and spreads the Gospel of Jesus Christ encouraging spiritual growth.

MUSICAL PRELUDE

(\* = Please stand only if it is comfortable to do so.)

**GATHERING**

**TREATY SIX ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the Cree Nation with whom Treaty 6 was signed and the territory wherein our church resides. We recognize our responsibility as Treaty members. We also honour the heritage and gifts of Métis people.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

We light this candle to remind ourselves that the Living Christ is present with us, around us, and through us. Christ calls us to be the light to the world. Amen.

**\* HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**VU #315**

**\* WORDS OF WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**P** **And also with you.**

**L** Thus says the Lord:

"As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep.

**P** **I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered. I will bring them out from the nations, and gather them from the countries,**

**and I will bring them into their own land.**

**L** I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land.

**P** **There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture.**

**L** I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD.

I will search for the lost and bring back the strays.

I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak.

**P** **I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the Lord have spoken."**

**\* WORSHIP THE LORD**

**SGP #116**

**\* PRAYER OF APPROACH**

Gracious and forgiving Lord - gentle shepherd and merciful master - be present with us and lead us in holiness and righteousness. Bless us with your word of truth and with your spirit of peace that we may worship you not only with our words and our thoughts, but also with our hearts, and when we rise to leave, with all our actions. Indeed most loving God, accept the praise we bring and help us dedicate ourselves completely to you. Amen.

**WORD**

**A READING FROM ACTS 4:5-12**

(NIV) The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone." Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

**L** This is the word of the Lord

**P** **Thanks be to God.**

**A READING FROM I JOHN 3:16-24**

(NIV) This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

L This is the word of the Lord

**P Thanks be to God.**

**A READING FROM JOHN 10:11-18**

(NIV) "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep 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 are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

L This is the Gospel of our Risen Lord

**P Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**\* ALL THE WAY MY SAVIOUR LEADS ME**

VU #635

**MESSAGE - "THE GOOD SHEPHERD" by Rev. Jazzy Bostock**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Gracious and Forgiving God, we thank you that when we wander - you seek us; that when we stumble and fall - you lift us up; and that when we falter or begin to get lost - you call us by name. Help us dear Lord to remain close by you - to keep your presence before our eyes and to hold your word within our heart. **Lord hear our prayer, and in your love answer.**

Loving God and Giving God - you provide all that we need and protect us from all that seeks to destroy us. We know that we are safe in your care. We find rest in you. We renew our strength in you. We thank you and we pray to you now, at this time, for others who need you.

**Lord hear our prayer, and in your love answer.**

We pray, O God,

- for those who are in authority and who are elected to positions of power we ask your wisdom,

- for those who lead either by right of birth or personality or office we ask a heart of love and acceptance

- and for those who have suffered for so long and who now face the awesome responsibility that comes with freedom we ask a justice that is full of mercy.

**Lord hear our prayer, and in your love answer.**

We also hold before you this day those we have named before you in our time of sharing...intercessions as shared, or silently.

**Lord hear our prayer, and in your love answer.**

Grant unto these we have named, and to all your church - new life in the name of Christ. Make us a peaceful and a joyful people who live the love we have received from your hands - we ask it through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray as one saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom 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.**

**And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**MISSION & SERVICE STORY -  
Building and Strengthening Community Through Art**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

Lord God - when we turn to you and follow you in trust, you fill our cups to overflowing and you provide all that we need and you bless us with gifts in abundance. In accordance with your most holy will, we now share these gifts with one another - praying that through them and through every effort of our hearts and hands, that your work in this world may be done and that your name may be glorified both now and forevermore. Amen.

**\*PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW** **VU #541**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures high and low;  
Give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

Text: LM; Verses 1, 4, Thomas Ken, 1637-1711; Verses 2, 3, Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt. Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551; attr. to Louis Bourgeois, ca. 1510-1561, alt. Contributors: OLD HUNDREDETH One License #A606632. Used with permission.

**SENDING FORTH**

**\* SHARING THE PEACE:** We greet those around us with a sign of peace (handshakes or hugs) and words like "The peace of the Lord be with you".

**DEPARTING HYMN**

**\* HOW SWEET THE NAME OF JESUS SOUNDS** **VU #344**

**\* COMMISSIONING (Unison):** In the power of the Holy Spirit we now go forth into the world, to fulfil our calling as the people of God, the body of Christ.

**\* BENEDICTION**

Go in peace, love and care for one another in the name of Christ;  
- and may God work his will within your lives  
- may your hearts be filled with his love  
- your minds be directed by his truth  
- and all your minutes and your days be lived  
in the fullness of his power and his grace. Amen.

**LET US, O GOD, DEPART IN PEACE**

**VU #961**

Let us, O God, depart in peace,  
who in your name are gathered here.  
Disclose the brightness of your face,  
and be forever near.

Blessings and Closing Songs - George Whelpton  
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**THREE FOLD AMEN**

**VU #967**

*Parts of the liturgy comes from <http://spirit-net.ca/sermons> Rev. Richard J. Fairchild*

**DONATIONS: So we ask, if you are able, to make a contribution.**

**1. Cheques can be mailed to:**

**Vegreville United Church at: 5126 - 48 Avenue, Vegreville, AB T9C 1M7 or  
Salem United Church at: Box 336, Vegreville AB T9C 1R3**

**2. Email transfers to [vegucc@telusplanet.net](mailto:vegucc@telusplanet.net)**

## LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

### Worship Leaders

April 28<sup>th</sup> - Caylee Bailey      May 5<sup>th</sup> -  
May 12<sup>th</sup> - Georgina Baron      May 19<sup>th</sup> -

### Upcoming Joint Worship Service

May 26<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am - **Trinity Sunday** - Holy Communion service at **Vegreville United Church (followed by Potluck Lunch)** with special guests attending: the **Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman**, Canon to the Ordinary for the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton, and Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations for the Anglican Church of Canada; **Gail Allan**, the former Coordinator for Ecumenical, Interchurch and Interfaith Relations in the General Council Office for the United Church of Canada and the **Rev. Adam Hall**, Pastoral Relations Minister for Northern Spirit Pastoral Charge.

**Prayers of the People:** While you are always encouraged to name aloud those you are praying for during the Prayers of the People, some people find this a difficult task when they are in a stance of prayer. To add a name to the prayers for the sick (only first name will be read out) or those who have died (full name will be read out): Please email Irene Sabados in the Vegreville United Church office, [vegucc@telusplanet.net](mailto:vegucc@telusplanet.net) or give her a call (780) 632-2338. Rev. Laureta or the prayer leader will include their names during the Prayers of the People at Worship. Names will stay on the prayer list for a total of three weeks unless a longer period is specifically requested.

**Shut-In Senior's Visits:** Do you know a local senior shut-in who would like a visit by Rev. Laureta Blondin? Rev. Laureta will be pleased to visit home-bound seniors and take them communion if they would like to receive it. Please call Irene Sabados in the Vegreville United Church office (780) 632-2338 to arrange and advise if there are any special needs!

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Cursillo Weekend Retreat at the Star of the North Retreat Centre.** Have you considered going deeper in your faith by attending a Cursillo Weekend? The weekend runs from Friday evening to late Sunday afternoon. It revolves around a series of talks given by a team of laypeople and clergy. Small group discussions follow the talks. There are times for worship, fellowship, personal reflection, prayer, and song. As a Christian, the weekend is a time for you to be strengthened in your spiritual journey. This weekend is open to all Christians 18 years and older.

*"[The word] Cursillo means a little course in Christianity. But it is so much more. It is, in fact, a profound experience of deep Christian community. It is a weekend of learning, but also of fellowship, worship, laughter and friendship." Bishop Stephen London*

**If interested, please speak with Rev. Laureta Blondin.**

- April 21<sup>st</sup> 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Gospel Sing-Along will be held at St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church** - Come out for an afternoon of sing-along fun, song and joy followed by free light refreshments and fellowship. Admission is by donation with funds going to help support the ongoing presence of St. Mary's Anglican Church in Vegreville.
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM - Obeying My God (OMG) Day Camp** - We welcome elementary (K-6) children to join in and explore the wonderful world that GOD has created through songs, stories, crafts, and games. Children **MUST** pre-register and are required to bring a bagged lunch. Spaces are limited so call early to reserve yours by emailing [vegucc@telusplanet.net](mailto:vegucc@telusplanet.net) or by calling 780-632-2338. This is a **FREE** program offered by the church but donations would be greatly appreciated.
- May 4<sup>th</sup> Between 1:00 pm & 3:00 pm - Spring Tea and Bake Sale Fundraiser** - Chance to win Door Prizes. Payment by donation. Not only baked goods but also canned goods, white elephant sale, and jewelry sale. Items on sale tables as priced.

*Thank you for worshipping with us!  
Please join us for coffee and fellowship  
in the auditorium after the service.*