

St. Vincent United Church of Christ
Good Shepherd Sunday – April 26th, 2026

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson
Church Musician – Deb Rick



Musical Interlude
Ringing of the Bell
Pastor's Welcome

Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: The Good Shepherd sees to it that each member of his flock is safe and secure, nourished with good things, living in peace and comfort. If one of us is lost or troubled, he comes to our rescue and brings us back into the fold of the flock.

People: **We give thanks for Jesus, who loves us without condition or hesitation or reservation. Praise be to God for sending his Son to bless our lives and show us his way.**

Pastor: Let us worship the Good Shepherd as we say together, our Affirmation of Faith...

Affirmation of Faith:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 252 "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"**

Please Be Seated.

Call to Prayer: We gather here together in confidence that we will receive from God whatever we ask, for the goodness and mercy of God are ours simply for the asking. Let us then bring our need for forgiveness and healing to this time of confession. Let us pray together our prayer of confession as it is printed in the bulletin.

Unison Prayer:

Merciful God, we have made mistakes and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the desires of our own hearts. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done. Have mercy upon us and restore us to wholeness in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is our Good Shepherd now and always. Amen.

Assurance: Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether – the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. In gratitude, let us sing our response ...

Sung Response: # 2026, “Halleluja” (praise book)

Halle, Halle, Halle-luja! Halle, Halle, Halle-luja! Halle, Halle, Halle-luja! Halleluja!, Halleluja!

Scripture Reading: Liturgist: Kathy Strahan

Liturgist: We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God’s Holy Scripture. Today’s reading is found in the John’s Gospel, chapter 10, verses 1-18 where Jesus declares to his followers that he is the Good Shepherd.

Let us pray: Holy God, you guard your people as a shepherd guards his sheep. We thank you for watching over us and showing us the way to live so that we might become all that you hope and dream for our lives. Be with us now as we hear your message of love and care for all people. Amen.

Reading of John 10: 1-18: (page 103, Pew Bible)

One day, Jesus was teaching among the crowd, and he said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate – but instead climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. But the one who does enter by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice.”

“He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. They follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, for they do not know his voice – and so, they will run from that one. Truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. I have come so that the sheep may have life and live it abundantly.”

“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.”

Liturgist: Here ends the read of God's Holy Scripture. May God bless us with understanding, and may we show our understanding in the way we live our lives. Amen. Now, let’s sing our middle hymn, # 460, “Be Not Dismayed”.

Hymn: # 460, “Be Not Dismayed”

Message: “The Little Lamb”

Sung Response: # 2025, “As the Deer”

Pastoral Prayer & Lord’s Prayer

Sung Response: #2203, “In His Time” (verse 2)

Offering Invitation: To really know the Good Shepherd is to experience the hope and peace and love that he brings into our lives. With that truth held fast within our hearts and minds, let us present with joy, our offerings to God.

Offertory

* **Sung Response: # 785, “We Give You But Your Own”**

We give you but your own, whate’er the gift may be. All that we have is yours alone - we give it gratefully.

* **Prayer of Dedication: Holy God, you show us how a good shepherd dedicates all his talents, skills, and life to the care of the flock. So, today, we dedicate our talents, skills, and lives to your use. Bless these gifts to your work, in the name of our Good Shepherd, Jesus. Amen.**

* **Hymn: # 493, “O Jesus, I Have Promised”**

* **Benediction:**

Jesus calls us to be like a little lamb and follow him in all his ways. Let us go forth to be his heart and hands and voices in the world. And rejoice, for God goes with us, helping us in all things and in all ways. Glory be to God!

* **Sung Response: # 77, “Lord, Dismiss Us”** (verse 1)

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing – fill our hearts with joy and peace. Let us each your love possessing – triumph in redeeming grace. Oh, refresh us oh, refresh us – traveling through wilderness.

* **Postlude Music**