



The Good Shepherd

WHITNEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 25, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Pastor Jane Shaffer

WELCOME

Rev Jane Shaffer

I am Rev. Jane Shaffer, a retired pastor and friend of the Whitney congregation. I welcome you to our service of worship. Although Easter Day has passed, we are still celebrating the Easter season. Traditionally this Sunday is observed as Shepherd Sunday when we read Psalm 23 and reflect on Jesus our shepherd and his instruction to feed his sheep. May God bless us as we worship together.

CANDLE LIGHTING

We seek the brightness of God's holy presence with us this morning and we remember that divine Light shines always and ever in all the dim, dark and lonely places of our lives.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Barbara Nolan

When dawn is welcomed as new possibility –

It is God's new day!

When the lonely are restored into relationship –

It is God's new day!

When new life is believed in and resurrection is lived –

It is God's new day!

Let us rejoice and be glad in this new day!

Please be in an attitude of prayer as I offer our opening prayer today.

OPENING PRAYER

Barbara Nolan

God of wonder and joy we thank you that in Jesus you have given us a companion who guides us on the way through life.

Help us to hear his voice and to recognize his presence so we may follow where he leads. Bless us now as we worship.

In the name of the Good Shepherd. Amen.

HYMN

Andy & Svetlana Maddox

He Leadeth Me UMH #128

He Leadeth Me UMH # 128 Andy & Svetlana Maddox

CCLI Song # 62762

Joseph Henry Gilmore | William Batchelder Bradbury

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Verse 1

He leadeth me O blessed thought

O words with heavenly comfort fraught

Whate'er I do where'er I be

Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me

Chorus (Between all verses)

He leadeth me He leadeth me

By His own hand He leadeth me

His faithful follower I would be

For by His hand He leadeth me

Verse 2

Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom
By water's still o'er troubled sea
Still 'tis his hand that leadeth me

Chorus

Verse 4

And when my task on earth is done
When by Thy grace the victory's won
E'en death's cold waves I would not flee
Since Thou through Jordan leadeth me

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kimberly Gardner

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Barbara Nolan

Open our minds, Spirit of wisdom,
that we may understand your word spoken for and to each one of us.
Open our hearts to God's grace and love,
then open our hands to serve in Christ's holy name.

Amen

“Our scripture reading today is Psalm 23
a Psalm of David about the Divine Shepherd”

SCRIPTURE

Barbara Nolan

Psalm 23

¹The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶Surely 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.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Jane Shaffer

“The Good Shepherd”

SONG

Six Ways to Sunday (Band)

Step by Step W & S #3004

CCLI Song # 696994 David (Beaker) Strasser
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Verse

O God You are my God
And I will ever praise You
O God You are my God
And I will ever praise You

Chorus

I will seek You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in Your way
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days

Verse

Chorus

Bridge

And I will follow you all of my days
and I will follow you all of my days
And step by step you'll lead me
and I will follow you all of my days

Verse

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev Jane Shaffer

“Come follow me” that’s what you ask us to do.
To lay down the things that won’t last,
that can’t save, that don’t really matter.

But it's hard because, to be perfectly honest, we like our things;
we feel safer where we are.
And it's confusing: how do we decide what to put down and what's
worth keeping?

God who asks us to follow, guide the steps of our hearts.
Help us to be brave enough to trust, kind enough to care,
wise enough to consider the implications of our actions and our
omissions.

Forgive us when we follow the whims of fashion instead of
fashioning our lives after you.

Forgive us when we depend on things to make us happy and when we
ignore others because to pay attention might make us feel for them
and then we'd have to change.

"Come and follow me." That's what you ask us to do.
Help us divine Shepherd to hear your voice and to answer.

Now let us join together in the Lord's prayer

LORD'S PRAYER

Rev Dewey Knowles

OFFERING

Because of God's grace, we have been nourished and renewed. Let us
share God's redeeming love by offering ourselves and our gifts.

OFFERING PRAYER

Shepherding God, use these signs of our love and commitment to
nourish and restore others so they may hear your voice and follow
you. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Andy and Svetlana Maddox

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow #94

Chorus

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Alleluia, alleluia
Praise God the source of all our gifts
Praise Christ whose power uplifts
Praise the Spirit Holy Spirit
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

CLOSING SONG

6 Ways to Sunday (Band)

I'm Gonna Live so God Can Use Me... TFWS #2153

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Verse 1

I'm gon-na live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gon-na live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Verse 2

I'm gon-na work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gon-na work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Verse 3

I'm gon-na pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gon-na pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Verse 4

I'm gon-na sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gon-na sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Ending: **Repeat Verse 1**

Verse 1

I'm gon-na live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gon-na live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

BLESSING

Rev. Jane Shaffer

The blessing of the God of life be yours.
The blessing of the Christ of love be yours.
The blessing of the Spirit of peace be yours,

To heal,

to cherish,

to keep you holy,

now and always. **Amen**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barbara Nolan

Be sure to check out the Family Life section on our website WhitneyUMC.org. Visit the table talk section where families can find questions to discuss more about the Good Shepherd.

Whitney has extra operating expenses as we continue preparations for our new pastor. If you are able, please consider making a special donation for helping with parsonage preparation and for painting and other updates to our worship space. You can mail a check to the church or click on the “donate button” on Whitney UMC dot org. [WhitneyUMC.org]

Thanks for worshipping with us today. Invite your families and friends to join us again next Sunday as Rev. Jane shares about resurrection and sacrament. We will also be celebrating communion together on our weekly Zoom Prayer and Fellowship gathering after the May 2nd worship service.

See you next week. May God be with you until we meet again.

Our Saturday Lunch program continues every Saturday 10:30 - noon. We can always use your help – both physically and financially.

Join us on our Facebook Group Whitney United Methodist Church Group to chat about the service. You can join the conversation anytime.

Our radio program Reach Out and Trust broadcasts on KBXL 94.1 FM on Sunday morning at 7:30 am and 11:30 am.