

North Church of Portsmouth

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

April 21, 2024 10:00 AM

Fourth Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE Blessed are Ye Faithful Souls J. Brahms

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING PRAYER

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's peace

*OPENING HYMN Savior Like a Shepherd #440

(music and words in blue hymnal)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*HYMN Spirit Song #352

(music and words in blue hymnal)

SCRIPTURE John 10:10-18

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have 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."

The word of God for the people of God. All: Thanks be to God

SERMON Walk the Talk: Shepherding Rev. Jennifer Mazur

MUSIC MEDITATION Dove of Peace B. Wren

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

If you have a prayer you would like to share out loud, please raise your hand and a deacon or usher will bring a microphone to you. If you would like to write a prayer down for our pastor to pray for you this week, please write it on the pieces of paper provided in the pews.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SONG OF PRAYER

Now the Green Blade Rises

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Jesus' touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green. X2

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY Carryl Krohne

OFFERTORY Gallant Anderson/Weaver

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

^{*}Indicates those who are able may stand

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, we dedicate these gifts to you. May they be used to open our hearts and minds, to set our hands and feet to walking and serving in your name. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN His Name is Wonderful #102

(music and words in blue hymnal)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (remain seated) Carillon G. Young

Stewardship - "The Fruits of Our Labors"

North Church represents the culmination of the fruits of our labors, allowing each individual to express their personal beliefs, experiences and connection. Next in our three week series of "What North Church Means To Me", is Paul Kelley.

"It means a sense of Love and support from our minister and Church family. It means working as a good steward in God's work, helping others wherever and whenever I can. It means enjoyment in supporting the mission and ministry of North Church."

Paul Kelley Life long member of North Church

North Church Welcomes You

We are glad that you are worshiping here today.

If you seek a church home in Portsmouth, we hope that you will return to worship with us again. The tear off form on this bulletin filled out and placed in the offering plate or handed to an usher or the pastor, will help us to know you better as we serve God together.

On this day and all days we keep Marondera Church, our Ukama partner in Zimbabwe in our prayers.



All Worship services begin at 10:00 am

Sunday, April 7
Second Sunday of Easter
The Sacrament of Communion
will be Celebrated

Sunday, April 14 Third Sunday of Easter Walk the Talk: Breaking Bread

Sunday, April 21 Fouth Sunday of Easter Walk the Talk: Shepherding

Sunday, April 28 Fifth Sunday of Easter

PRO PORTSMOUTH'S ANNUAL CHILDREN'S DAY - MAY 5, 2024 12:00 - 4:00 P.M.



VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS NEEDED!

We are looking forward to opening our doors wide and welcoming children and families into North Church! Fun and adventurous activities are planned for all who enter. In order to extend extravagant hospitality, we are in need of volunteers to guide and assist throughout the afternoon. Please consider volunteering for a one hour or two hour time slot. We can guarantee that it will be lively and energetic, and we can promise that it will put a smile on your face and fill your heart with love! Please let Pastor Jenn or Gail Darrow know if you can help.

Additionally, we are in need of supplies for an activity for the children. Needed items are:

- Medium sized bags of potting soil
- Colorful markers, preferably washable
- Sandwich bags with zip lock tops

Donations can be left in the narthex. And thank you in advance for participating in this favorite Portsmouth and North Church event!



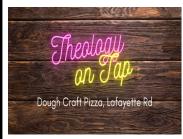
"Meatball Mondays"

The Mission Board will be collecting a free-will offering today. This money will enable our North Church team to buy the supplies needed for the monthly dinner we provide to the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen.



Curious About North Church? Come to our Newcomers Gatherings!

Join us for a Newcomers Class today after worship where all who are interested can learn about the history of our congregation, get to know other newcomers, and discern whether you'd like to become a member at North Church!



Theology on Tap

Join us for Theology on Tap **Tuesday**, **April 30th** as we talk about what it means to Walk the Talk of our faith!

Seafarer's Friend Ditty Bags

Missions will continue collecting items to fill ditty bags for the Seafarer's Friend through the month of April. The goal is to fill 10 ditty bags, 2 for women and 8 for men. Please keep this in mind as you shop for your items. See the list in the April Bellman or the poster in the Narthex for the requested items. You may place your donations in the collection box in the Narthex as you enter the church.



Bible Study

We have a new day for our weekly Bible study! We will be meeting on **Tuesdays at 1pm** in the Sanctuary. Can't wait to see you then!

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us 440



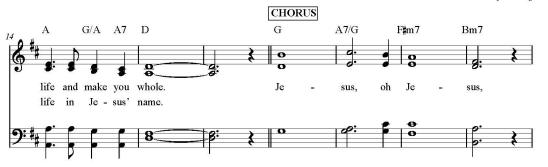
Spirit Song

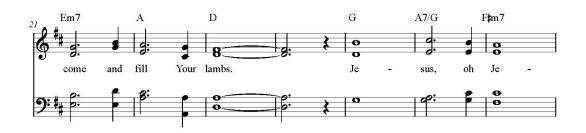
Words and Music by John Wimber















North Church of Portsmouth United Church of Christ



NORTH CHURCH STAFF:

Senior Pastor Reverend Jennifer Mazur pastorjenn@northchurchportsmouth.org

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