



## **Maple Street Congregational Church, UCC**

*We share God's love, hope, and healing and serve our neighbors.*

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

for April 25, 2021

*Fourth Sunday of Easter & Sacrament of Baptism*

**Prelude**

Ji Hye Jung

**Welcome**

Rev. Pam Cochrane

**Call to Worship** (Psalm 23)

One: With grace flowing, the poet sings the opening lines of the famous prayer,  
“The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.”

**People: We hear the Psalmist’s contentment and wonder about our own.**

One: Settled on the ground, with grass tickling their toes,  
the psalmist rests, “God makes me lie down in green pastures.  
She leads me beside still waters. She restores my soul.”

**People: We hear their deep need for rest and wonder about our own.**

One: With a deep sigh, the psalmist declares,  
“Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil; for you are with me. You prepare a table before me.  
You anoint me. My cup overflows.

**People: We recognize their bold courage and wonder about our own.**

One: Remembering God’s faithfulness, the psalmist finds words  
to carry with them, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.”

**People: We hear their faithful trust and wonder about our own.**

One: Holy Spirit of Rest and Renewal,  
in this time of worship inspire us with words both ancient and new  
so that we may find the words that connect us to You.

**People: And, all God’s people said, Amen and amen.**

**Prayer for Pardon**

Rev. Douglas Vooyo

Holy One, we hear the comforting ancient poetry of the psalmist  
but wonder, is it true?

Will you really provide for what we need?

Will you bring us to a place of rest?

Will you protect us from enemies, even when they share our dinner table?

We confess that rather than being only filled with holy wonder,  
we are also filled with skepticism at the ancient words.

We can quickly tally up the times

we didn’t feel provided for or protected from danger.

We count the times we could not catch a break when we desperately needed it.

So Holy One, shepherd our busy minds back to the here and now,

help our spirits forgive the grudges we hold,

and invite us to experience You as truly present.

In these moments of quiet, offer us rest for a moment.

*Silence*

## Assurance of Grace

Beloved People of God, there is wisdom in our questions, but God is steadfast. God's presence is unwavering and will accompany us through every terrifying valley.  
God's spirit is unshakeable and will sit with us  
even in the presence of formidable foes.  
God's love is relentless  
and will offer us goodness and mercy all the days of our life.

**People: Amen.**

## Special Music

*Simple Gifts*  
Kathy Gross, flute  
Ji Hye Jung, piano

Shaker Hymn, arr. John Purifoy

## Sacrament of Baptism

*Alice Marie McCarthy*  
*daughter of Kathryn & Kevin McCarthy*  
*Godparents, Joseph & Jenna McCarthy*

## Message

"Surely They Will Remember"

Rev. Pamela Cochrane

## Invitation to the Offering

Like a shepherd tending to those in their care,  
God has offered us birth and new life, rest and renewal,  
protection and mercy,  
love and nourishment.  
In response, we are invited to give a portion of our time, energy, gifts, and prayers  
so that others in this world may experience the same.

## Prayer of Dedication

Loving God,  
bless our gifts and all the ways in which we give.  
May each of our gifts be a part of co-creating  
and tending to the love, safety, belonging, and dignity  
You envision for the world. Amen.

## Closing Prayer

Rev. Douglas Vooyo

## Benediction

As you depart from this place, go with courage and go with trust  
that the God who created you is also the One who will sustain you  
and the One who will show you the way. Until we meet again, may  
you be filled with curiosity, wonder, and openness to God's tender leading.  
Amen.

## Postlude

Ji Hye Jung

*The altar flowers are in loving memory of*  
*Blenda & Eugene Acheson*  
*Given by Karen Kane*

*The steeple is lit in loving memory of*  
*Bill Hayward*  
*Given by Beverly Hayward*

## Announcements & Events

Sunday, April 25 at 10am: *Baptism Worship Outdoors in the Memory Garden*

Tuesday, April 27 at 7pm: *Trustees Mtg on Zoom*

Saturday, May 1 at 10am-12pm: *World Service Drive for Lifebridge & Bootstraps in MSC parking lot*

Sunday, May 2 at 10am: *Fifth Sunday of Easter Worship*

Tuesday, May 4 at 7pm: *Church Council Mtg on Zoom*

Sunday, May 9 at 10am: *Sixth Sunday of Easter Worship & Mother's Day*

Tuesday, May 11 at 7pm: *Deacons Mtg on Zoom*

Wednesday, May 12 at 6:30pm: *CE Mtg on Zoom*

Sunday, May 16 at 10am: *Seventh Sunday of Easter Worship*

Tuesday, May 18 at 7pm: *World Service Mtg on Zoom*

Sunday, May 23 at 10am: *Pentecost Sunday and Annual Meeting following Worship*

Tuesday, May 25 at 7pm: *Trustees Mtg on Zoom*

Sunday, May 30 at 10am: *First Sunday after Pentecost Worship*

Email the Church Office for the Zoom meeting links: [info@maplestreetchurch.org](mailto:info@maplestreetchurch.org)

Every Tuesday at 6pm: *Prayer & Table*

Every Wednesday at 12noon: *Chat with the Pastors via Zoom*

Every Thursday at 12noon: *Virtual Bible Study*

**Annual Meeting Reports from Committees are due by April 30<sup>th</sup>**

Email reports to [info@maplestreetchurch.org](mailto:info@maplestreetchurch.org)

**SATURDAY, MAY 1st 10am-12pm in MSC parking lot:**

**World Service will host a spring collection for Lifebridge Thrift Shop & Bootstraps**

### Lifebridge Thrift Shop

Money from the Thrift Shop supports the homeless in our community. The Lifebridge Truck will be in our parking lot to collect the items to sell in their shop. We will check items as you drop them off to ensure they are receiving good quality items. Do not drop items off at the church beforehand, if you can't make this date, please send items with a friend.

**ITEMS TO BRING** (please do not bring broken or chipped items or old dusty heirlooms):

- Glassware: in sets of 2 or 4 (no singles or odd numbers please)
- Household items in good condition (such as contemporary lamps, candles, or small carpets)
- Decorative items in good condition (such as contemporary bric-a-brac )
- Men and Women's Spring Clothing in good condition
- New, unopened Jigsaw puzzles (if they are opened they do not want them)

**THEY DO NOT WANT:**

~ China/dishes ~ Puzzles that have been opened ~ Books ~ Artwork ~ TV's

### Beverly Bootstraps

1. Please bring diapers, they continue to be in dire need!
2. They also need gently used children's clothing. This is an opportunity for your young ones to clean out their closets and to help other children in need.

## Memorial Garden Fund

*We are in need of some new plantings and are hoping to add perennials &/or small shrubs that will require little to no maintenance. If you have worked in the garden, you know that we have had to do a lot of watering by hand as well as weeding etc. Please consider making a donation to the Memorial Garden Fund. If you send a check to the church, please mark the memo with "Memorial Garden Fund".*

*Thank you, Marjory Simpson, Moderator*