

May 3, 2020  
Pastor Shane Russo  
Liturgist: Carmen Russo



Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Can you hear the voice of god?

**We hear God calling us by name.**

Are you troubled or distressed?

**We come here to find a place of rest for awhile.**

Come and find a guide who knows these lands.

**We come to praise our Shepherding God, whose pathways and doors lead to life.**

\*Hymn      *Open My Eyes, that I May See*  
UMH

#454

Pastoral Prayer

Shepherding God bring us into your fold.

Lead us beside still waters and restore our souls.

Help us see the way we should go, the way we should live. Help us hear

your voice calling our name. Enliven this time of worship, that we may find true life as we join with others: praising your name, celebrating your great goodness, and sharing your love for all people.

Shepherding God, be with us in our need. Like sheep who have gone astray— we have not heeded your voice, calling us to follow the right paths, beckoning us to lie down and be restored; we have acted as if our salvation lies in busyness and control.

We do not want to be sheep— dependent on a shepherd for everything. We want to do it alone— to maintain our independence. Forgive us for rejecting your shepherding care and your love and guidance. Forgive us for our need to do it by ourselves, to be separate from the flock. Forgive us for doubting your presence in times of trouble. Forgive us our despair in the face of seemingly unrelenting evil and death. Lead us back to the path of life. AMEN

The Lord's Prayer

Honoring God with our Tithes and Offerings and Praises

Invitation to give

Offering Prayer

Generous, life-giving God,  
you sent Jesus that we might have life  
and have it abundantly.  
In response to this great gift,  
we now offer ourselves and our resources.  
May these gifts help us as a church to be your voice,  
calling all people to abundant life  
and to their true identities  
as your beloved. Amen.

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*Doxology*

Hymn      *Nearer My God to Thee*

#528 UMH

Scripture      1 Peter 4:7-11 (The VOICE translation)

7 We are coming to the end of all things, so be serious and keep your wits about you in order to pray *more forcefully*. 8 Most of all, love each other steadily and unselfishly, because love makes up for many faults. 9 Show hospitality to each other without complaint. 10 Use whatever gift you've received for *the good of* one another so that you can show yourselves to be

good stewards of God's grace in all its varieties. **11** If you're called upon to talk, speak as though God put the words in your mouth; if you're called upon to serve others, serve as though you had the strength of God behind you. In these ways, God may be glorified in all you do through Jesus the Anointed, to whom belongs glory and power, now and forever. Amen.

Special Music     *Holy, Holy, Holy*                      performed by Angela Russo

**Sermon**                                              **Grace and Strength**

Hymn             *It Is Well with My Soul*                                              #377 UMH

\*Benediction

Thank you for joining us in worship today!