

# The Mount Carmel Congregational Church

*A United Church of Christ*



*The Good Shepherd*, Sadao Watanabe (Japan, 1968)

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

**Prelude**                    “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”  
   *Arr. Daniel Kallman*  
   Valerie Duffy, Flute & Diane Scott, Violin

## **Greeting and Announcements**

### **Passing of the Peace of Christ**

#### **Call to Worship**

**One:**            As we gather this morning, we welcome one another.

**All:**            **Welcome to this community of love and grace,**

**One:**            Welcome to this gathering of hope and perseverance.

**All:**            **God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,**

**One:**            God invites all of us to share in this good news:

**All:**            **We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.**

**One:**            We belong, just as we are.

**All:**            **In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.**

**\*Hymn**                    “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”                    NCH #4

## **The Call to Confession**

### **Prayer of Confession**

*(In Unison)*

**Loving God, you are our shepherd, and yet we still want more. We lie down when we could act, we stir the pot when we could offer peace, we wander tempting paths instead of following you. We see courage and comfort in earthly things rather than in you. We hate our enemies and refuse to break bread with them; we see scarcity even when you offer us abundance. We pray for forgiveness, for your goodness and mercy, so that we might dwell in your grace, forever. Amen.**

## Words of Assurance

### First Reading:

Psalm 23

Leon Fiftal

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

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

Surely 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.

### Hymn

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

NCH #252

*[Please remain seated for this hymn]*



### Second Reading:

John 10: 11-16

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. When the hired hand sees the wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away. That’s because he isn’t the shepherd; the sheep aren’t really his. So the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. He’s only a hired hand and the sheep don’t matter to him.

“I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep and they know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. I give up my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that don’t belong to this sheep pen. I must lead them too. They will listen to my voice and there will be one flock, with one shepherd.”

## Sermon

### \*Hymn

“Listen to Your Savior Call”

NCH #250

## The Joys and Concerns of the Parish Family

Please remember the following persons in your prayers: Carol Fitzsimons; Marilyn Bronson; Karl Paulette; Amos Hewitt; Rhonda Pruzinsky; and Gilbert Spencer.

## Moments of Silent Prayer

### Pastoral Prayer

#### The Lord’s Prayer

*(In Unison)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy names. 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

### Call to Offering

#### Offertory

“The Good Shepherd”

Bell Choir

*Arr. Jobathan D. Campbell*

### \*The Doxology

*(In Unison)*

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God for all that Love has done,  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit—One. Amen.***

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

*(In Unison)*

God of all, we give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. With these offerings, we give ourselves; may we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen.

**\*Hymn**

“What a Covenant”

NCH #471

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

“What a Covenant”

*Arr. Michael Burkhardt*

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*As a community of faith, gathered in Christ's love,  
we strive to support one another in hearing the Word,  
living the Word, and sharing the Word.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please join us this coming Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> for our annual Spring Tag Sale, which will take place from 9am-2pm. As per usual, there will be a variety of church craft and tag tables, so we hope to see you there!

Our 2024 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, following service. After our meeting, we will also be holding a luncheon with food from Whitney Donut! Copies of the Annual Report will be made available for review on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Please join the Copeland Family for a Memorial Concert in loving memory of Pete Copeland, which will be held next Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, in the Parish Hall. The concert will begin at 2:00pm and will be livestreamed on Facebook. To RSVP for the event (or for more information), please contact Kim Onofrio by phone at (203) 606-7574 or by email at [kimonofrio@comcast.net](mailto:kimonofrio@comcast.net) by April 20<sup>th</sup>.

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## **SPRING WORSHIP: A LOOK AHEAD**

*Please join us every Sunday at 10am for service!*

### **April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Annual Meeting**

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

**Scripture:** Acts 8: 26-40  
Psalm 22: 25-31  
1 John 4: 7-21  
John 15: 1-8

### **May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Holy Communion**

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*

**Scripture:** Acts 10: 44-48  
Psalm 98  
1 John 5: 1-6  
John 15: 9-17

### **May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

*Seventh Sunday of Easter*

**Scripture:** Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26  
Psalm 1  
1 John 5: 9-13  
John 17: 6-19



**WHERE:**

MOUNT CARMEL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
3284 WHITNEY AVENUE, HAMDEN CT 06518  
INDOOR & OUTDOOR!

**WHEN:**

SATURDAY, APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>  
9AM-2PM

**WHAT:**

TAG/CRAFT TABLES!  
SNACK BAR!  
BAKE SALE!  
& MORE!

**BOOK NOW:**

TABLES ARE \$20 EACH AND CAN BE BOOKED BY CALLING  
VERA AT (203) 239-7135

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024



**Mount Carmel Congregational Church**  
3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518  
203-248-7408

Minister: Reverend Milton Brasher-Cunningham  
[Pastor@mccucc.com](mailto:Pastor@mccucc.com)

Office Admin: Mr. Aren Alberico  
[Office@mccucc.com](mailto:Office@mccucc.com)

Music Director: Mrs. Lynda Pedersen  
[lyndal.pedersen@gmail.com](mailto:lyndal.pedersen@gmail.com)

Faith Formation: Mrs. Debbie Wooley  
[ce@mccucc.com](mailto:ce@mccucc.com)

Treasurer: Mrs. Ellen Amato  
[treasurer@mccucc.com](mailto:treasurer@mccucc.com)

Facebook: Mt. Carmel Congregational Church

Instagram: mountcarmelchurch1

Website: [www.mccucc.com](http://www.mccucc.com)

**Officers:**

President: Tom Duffy  
[thomasduffy67@gmail.com](mailto:thomasduffy67@gmail.com)

Clerk: Beverly Jurkiewicz  
[bevjur@comcast.net](mailto:bevjur@comcast.net)

Board of Deacons: Bev Jurkiewicz, Chair

Board of Trustees: Anna Anderson, Chair  
[aanderson545@gmail.com](mailto:aanderson545@gmail.com)