

**WORSHIP SERVICE APRIL 25, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY**

Worship Leaders: Rev. Effie McAvoy, Minister Sandy Knapp & Donna Gaumond

Music Leader: Rob Bower

PLEASE PUT YOUR JOYS & CONCERNS IN THE CHAT BOX BEFORE SERVICE

9:55 ANNOUNCEMENTS

10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE

Bind Us Together, Lord

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We lean into this day with the strength we have.

ALL: We lift up our heads to meet the day.

Leader: God sends out a call that will not let us go.

ALL: We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.

Leader: If rain still lingers, open the umbrellas of love and set out anyway.

ALL: We are called to dance again!

By: Worship Design Studio

MUSIC

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

UMH #381

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation – We know your voice, the sounds of your steps. Your love gathers us, urges us, encourages us. Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you – so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ. Be with us now, we pray. Amen.

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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory now and forever. Amen.

Offering Our Resources and our Energy

How do we know the rhythm and dance of our lives is faithful? Drummer of the Grateful Dead, Mickey Hart wrote “To fall in love is to fall in rhythm.” It is love for each other by which we know we are followers of Jesus, the ever-attentive shepherd. In the face of societal rules and attitudes that strive to foster “everyone for themselves,” our hope is that others will know we are Christians by our love. Let us “fall in rhythm” with our neighbors and our planet in order to build up the whole through our offerings this day.

PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

604 SEVEN MILE ROAD HOPE, RI. 02831

401-821-8217

www.sovumc.org/give-now

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, these gifts are not payment for services rendered. These aren't our dues necessary for us to belong to this church. We know you made us with a purpose, and so now we give ... on purpose, freely offering to you the best of who we are. Continue to work out your purpose in us. Make us your hands, outstretched, on purpose. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE I Hope You Dance

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 10:11-17

"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. **16** 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.

1 John 3:16-18, 23-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister[a] in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

THANKS BE TO GOD

SERMON "To Love isn't a Sacrifice"
Rev. Effie McAvoy

MUSIC "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" FWS #2223

CLOSING PRAYER