

# Covenant United Presbyterian Church

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Worship with us on [YouTube.com/@CovenantTV1813](https://www.youtube.com/@CovenantTV1813)



*"Flock of Sheep overtaken by a Storm," by Eugène Joseph Verboeckhoven, 1839,  
Oil on canvas, The Royal Museums of Fine Arts, Belgium ✠*

## Eastertide IV

### "Shepherd's Sunday"

**April 26, 2026, 11:00 AM**

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Worship Leader: Mary Reefer

Choir Director: Chrystal Sircely

Guest Musicians: Lamont Williams, Lars Morrison, Ione Mathias

## ~ Order of Worship ~

\*\* = Please stand, as able

### The Gathering

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We have been through much, but the Lord has been with us, and so we find peace and give thanks.

People: **The Lord is our shepherd; we have everything we need.**

Pastor: Through shadow and light, through death and birth, through grief and joy, we have never been alone. We rest in that truth.

People: **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

\*\* OPENING PRAYER

\*\*HYMN 187

*Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

BRADBURY

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.**

**O Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive those who confess their faults.**

**Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name.**

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON ✠

Pastor: "The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;

People: **I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.**

Pastor: And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;

People: **Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within they house forever."**

\*\*RESPONSE C54

*To God Be the Glory*

MY TRIBUTE

**To God be the glory, To God be the glory,  
To God be the glory for the things He has done.**

***With His blood He has saved me; With His pow'r He has raised me.  
To God be the glory for the things He has done.***

**\*\*THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

## **The Word**

**\*\*ILLUMINATION 240 V.1 & 2** *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* ALLELUIA NO. 1

***Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give Praise to his name.***

***1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.***

***2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen.***

NT LESSON Acts 2: 42 – 47 *Pew Bible P.886*

Leader: Here ends the reading from Acts of the Apostles. People: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 23 Hymn 802 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* ST COLUMBA

NT LESSON 1 Peter 2: 19 – 25 *Pew Bible P.984*

Leader: Here ends the reading of the Epistle. People: **Praise be to You, O Lord!**

**\*\*GOSPEL LESSON** John 10: 1 – 10 *Pew Bible P.872*

Pastor: The Gospel of Our Lord. People: **Glory to You, O Christ!**

CANTICLE 239 v.1, 2 *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing* GELOBT SEI GOTT

***Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!***

***To all the world glad news we bring; Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***The Lord of life is risen today! Death's mighty stone is rolled away.***

***Let all the earth rejoice and say: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

MESSAGE *A Different Kind of Gated Community* PASTOR JOHN

**\*\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *"This I believe," by the late Bruce D. Prewer*

**I believe I need a shepherd.**

**Because I am sometimes timid and other times overconfident,  
because I often don't know the best path yet pretend I do,  
because I rush into dead ends or lead others into hazardous places,  
because my brightest ideas are seamed with darkness,  
because the things I crave may not be what is good for me,  
I need a shepherd.**

**I believe in Jesus, the best possible shepherd;  
his wisdom leads me to the best opportunities,  
his word comforts me when I'm anxious or afraid,  
his arm steadies me when I feel weary and heavy-laden,  
his wounded body displays the cost of my rescue.  
I believe in Jesus, the best possible shepherd.  
I believe that I do not find him but he finds me,  
that I under his care by virtue of sheer grace,  
the love he gives me is to be shared with others,  
that he treasures my name and prepares a place for me,  
that his fold transfixes earth and heaven.  
I trust Jesus, the good shepherd. Amen.**

THE PASTORAL PRAYER with THE 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.**

## **The Eucharist**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

**\*\*DOXOLOGY B593                      *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*                      DOXOLOGY 1967**  
***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creature here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. A-men.***

**\*\*CORPORATE PRAYER OF DEDICATION ☩**

**God of love, you abide with us; you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways. Out of gratitude for your care, we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of caring, that all may feast at the table of abundance, walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion. Amen.**

## **The Sending**

**\*\*HYMN 803                      *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*                      RESIGNATION**

**\*\*THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

**\*\*POSTLUDE**

✦ About the bulletin cover art: Eugène Joseph Verboeckhoven (1798-1881), was born in Belgium to an artistic family of sculptors who encouraged his development as a painter. Studying in Ghent, Belgium, he was introduced to the classical landscape tradition of Nicolas Poussin and Claude Lorraine and the work of animaliers (exacting painters of animals) that became the foundation for his own painting going forward. This painting, in the words of Father Patrick van der Vorst, founder of Christian Art (a weblog on fine art):

*“The shepherd stands at the edge of a gathering storm, drawing his flock close beside a stone cross. The sheep press in around him, sensing danger, while dark clouds roll in and rain begins to fall. There is movement everywhere: the sky alive with tension, the landscape shifting, the light flickering between shadow and brightness. And yet, at the center, there is direction: the shepherd and the cross.*

*“And this is exactly what Christ does for us. He is the shepherd who leads us forward, especially when the skies darken. He does not leave us exposed; he gathers us, moves us, brings us from one place to another. Sometimes we may not even see where he is taking us... only that we are being drawn somewhere new. But like the sheep in this painting, we are not meant to stand still. We are meant to follow and constantly be on the move with Christ.”* (for more see <https://christian.art/daily-gospel-reading/john-10-1-10-2026/> and The Rehs Galleries, Inc., biography of the artist: <https://rehs.com/enq/bio/eugene-j-verboeckhoven/>)

✦ The Assurance of Pardon is taken from verses 1 and 6 of “The King of Love My Shepherd Is,” by Henry Williams Baker, 1868; the Prayer of Dedication was written by Mary Petrina Boyd, and posted on Ministry Matters. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>

## **Church Announcements**

Please Note: Join us for food & conversation in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to *the Morrison’s* for hosting today.

Donations: “Tithely” at [covenantbutler.org](http://covenantbutler.org) or “Tithely” Smartphone App

ABBE: Adult Brown-Bag Education: The group will meet on Thu. April 30, 2026, at 11:30 AM

Lighthouse Item of the Month: – **MAY** TBD

Worship Accompanists Needed! May 10, 17, 24, 31 Piano, Organ, Any Instrument OK! See Church Administrator ASAP.

Celebrations:

April 26 Linda Peter’s Birthday

April 26 Don Wallace’s Birthday

### **Membership at Covenant United Presbyterian Church**

If you are reading this information in our Worship Bulletin, you already belong here at Covenant United Presbyterian Church. Here, all are welcome, and membership in the congregation is not required to participate in any of our activities and ministries. By becoming a member, you will have voice and vote in congregational meetings and can better express your commitment to Jesus Christ through this church. Welcoming people as members helps us to get to know them better and to support you more fully – letting all of us stay engaged and grow in faith together. Individuals may join the church by Profession of Faith and Baptism (for those who have never been baptized), by Reaffirmation of Faith (for those who are not currently active members of another Christian church), or by Transfer of Church Letter (for those on the active roll of another church.) Contact Pastor John to find out more.



Please Pray for:

**The Family of Virginia Lokovich**, a Covenant member, who passed away April 19;

**The Family of David Blewett**, a Covenant member, who passed away on Easter Sunday, April 3;

**Noah Reefer**, John & Mary's seventh Grandson born last week;

**Scott**, Linda Peter's neighbor, battling cancer;

**Pam Patterson**, is in the hospital with a case of pneumonia;

**Carolyn Starkey**, Dave Loebell's aunt from Ohio, having numerous health issues;

**Sherry Bartman**, cousin of Sandra Graff, from Auburn, GA, was diagnosed with cancer, 4 months after losing her husband;

**Leo Deblack**, new-born great grandson of Nancy Rice's brother, with a rare, but treatable genetic disorder called MSUD. . . prayers will be appreciated for the family going forward;

**Audrey Carlson**, will be having a leg check-up in Mid-April with hopes of being cleared for driving, she continues doing physical therapy after hip replacement at Concordia Cabot;

**Jane Faulkner**, Ann Morrison's sister in CA, receiving assistance with her FEMA housing file from Congressman Kelly's office, while she is managing treatment for persistent lung-related illness (MAC);

**Scotty McAliley**, Ann Morrison's cousin in Marietta, Georgia, continuing chemo-therapy for the remainder of her life, while caring for her 99 year old mother, herself with health issues;

**Maria, Miquel & family**, known to Dave Loebell, Miquel has been diagnosed with aggressive bladder cancer