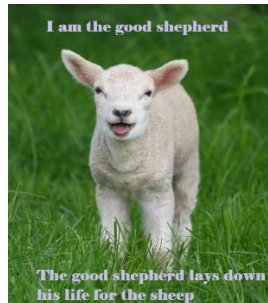




CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



April 26, 2026

10:00 am

AN ASTERISK IN THE BULLETIN INDICATES THAT ALL FOR WHOM IT IS COMFORTABLE SHOULD RISE FOR THAT PART OF THE SERVICE

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Matt Howard

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

'God Of The Ages, Whose Almighty Hand'

No. 725

GALL TO GATHERING¹ *(Inspired By Psalm 23)*

One: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us enter with thanksgiving and praise!

ALL: The Shepherd restores our souls, satisfies our needs, and leads us on the right path.

One: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us live with courage and conviction, not fear and timidity.

ALL: Through valleys and storms, chaos and confusion, threats and concerns, the Shepherd comforts us with power and strength, love and compassion, hope and peace.

One: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us worship in the presence of the Holy One!

ALL: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives. Let us dwell in God's presence forever!

OPENING PRAYER¹

***HYMN**

'Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us'

No. 558

***PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE¹**

ALL: Shepherd of our lives, like sheep, we wander and stray. We come to you for sustenance, yet distance ourselves from your realm when you require more from us. We bite one another with words that cut and attitudes that reflect more apathy than care. We lie down and become stuck, when you would expand our territory and sphere of belonging. We give you thanks for not giving up on us and continuing to lead us by your Spirit. Give us courage and confidence to do your will and to love with our lives. We devote ourselves anew to your teaching, to community, to the sacramental life, and to prayer. Lead us in the ever full and renewed life in Christ. Amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE¹**

***SUNG RESPONSE**

'Be Still, My Soul' (vs. 1)

No. 566

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco

HYMN

'God Is My Shepherd'

No. 79

SCRIPTURE

John 10:1-10

10¹ I assure you that whoever doesn't enter into the sheep pen through the gate but climbs over the wall is a thief and an outlaw. ² The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The guard at the gate opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ Whenever he has gathered all of his sheep, he goes before them and they follow him, because they know his voice. ⁵ They won't follow a stranger but will run away because they don't know the stranger's voice." ⁶ Those who heard Jesus use this analogy didn't understand what he was saying.

I am the gate

⁷ So Jesus spoke again, "I assure you that I am the gate of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me were thieves and outlaws, but the sheep didn't listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.

SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Alex Green

During this time, we invite you to embrace the transition from hearing the word to gathering ourselves in prayer by taking a moment for quiet reflection either in your pew, or by coming forward to light a candle to give light to the prayer(s) on your heart that have no words to be expressed.

Come and Light a Candle...



PASTORAL PRAYER¹

THE PRAYER OF JESUS *(in unison)*

Our Creator (Father) who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY¹

OFFERTORY

'Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desiring'

(Bach)

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------|
| *OFFERTORY RESPONSE | 'My Life Flows On' (vs. 1) | No. 619 |
| *PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION¹ | | |
| *HYMN | 'Rejoice The Lord Is King' | No. 699 |
| *BENEDICTION¹ | | |
| POSTLUDE | 'Spanish Trumpet Joy' | (de Peraza/Harris) |

Participating In Todays Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor
 Alex Green, Music Director
 Abigail Nordan, Soloist
 David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter
 Dani Kardisco, Faith Formation Director

¹*By the Gate: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday in Easter Year A was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.*

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand 725

Trumpets, before
each stanza
(optional)

1. God of the a - ges, whose al-might-y hand
2. Thy love di-vine hath led us in the past;
3. From war's a-larms, from dead-ly pes-ti - lence,
4. Re - fresh thy peo - ple on our toil-some way;

leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
in this free land with thee our lot is cast;
be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense;
lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
be thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay,
thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease;
fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
thy Word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
thy boun-teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

WORDS: Daniel C. Roberts, 1876, alt.
MUSIC: George W. Warren, 1894

NATIONAL HYMN
10 10 10 10

558 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

1. Sav-ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need thy ten-der care;
 2. We are thine; do thou be- friend us; be the guard-ian of our way;
 3. Ear-ly let us seek thy fa- vor; ear-ly let us do thy will;

in thy pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use thy folds pre- pare.
 keep thy flock; from sin de- fend us; seek us when we go a- stray.
 bless-ed Lord and on-ly Sav-ior, with thy love our spir-its fill.

Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear thy chil-dren when we pray;
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, thou hast loved us, love us still;

bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear thy chil-dren when we pray.
 bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

WORDS: Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1836
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1859

BRADBURY
 87.87D

Be Still, My Soul

1. Be still, my soul: for God is on your side;
 2. Be still, my soul: for God will un - der - take
 3. Be still, my soul: the hour is has - tening on

bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain.
 to guide the fu - ture sure - ly as the past.
 when we shall dwell with God for - ev - er more,

Trust in your God, your sav - ior and your guide,
 Your hope, your con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;
 when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,

who through all chang - es faith - ful will re - main.
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.

WORDS: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; tr. Jane Borthwick, 1855, alt.
 MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933

FINLANDIA
 11 10.11 10.11 10

Arr. © 1933, renewed 1961, Presbyterian Board of Christian Education

Be still, my soul: your best, your heaven - ly friend
 Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
 Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,

through thorn - y ways leads to a peace - ful end.
 the voice that calmed them in this world be - low.
 all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

1. God is my shep-herd, I'll not want, I feed in pas-tures green.
 2. Re - stored to life each morn-ing new, I rise up from the dust
 3. When I must pass through shad-owed vale, where loss and death a - wait,
 4. No en - e - my can o - ver - come, no power on earth de - feat
 5. Good - ness and mer - cy all my days will sure - ly fol - low me;

1. God grants me rest and bids me drink from wa - ters calm and clean.
 2. to fol - low God whose pres - ence gives me con - fi - dence and trust.
 3. I will not fear for God is there, my shep - herd strong and great,
 4. the ones a - noint - ed by God's grace and fed with man - na sweet.
 5. and where God reigns in heaven and earth, my dwell - ing place will be.

1. Through dai - ly tasks, I'm blessed and led by one I have not seen.
 2. I praise the name of God to - day; in God I put my trust.
 3. whose rod and staff will com - fort me and all my fears a - bate.
 4. My cup is filled and o - ver - flows as I my Sav - ior greet.
 5. My shep - herd bless - es, cares, and leads through all e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: *Scottish Psalter*, 1650; adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992
 MUSIC: J. L. Macbeth Bain, 1915; harm. Gordon Jacob, 1934,
 adapt. Walter W. Felton, 1955

BROTHER JAMES' AIR
 86.86.86

Text adapt. © 1992 The Pilgrim Press; harm. © 1934 Oxford University Press

1. My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
 2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring-ing.
 3. What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.
 4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

I hear the clear, though far off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

Descant

3. Re - jice in glo - rious hope! For Christ, our Judge, shall come

1. Re - jice, the Lord is King! The ris - en Christ a - dore!
 2. God's reign can nev - er fail, Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;
 3. Re - jice in glo - rious hope! For Christ, our Judge, shall come

to glo - ri - fy the saints for their e - ter - nal home:

Re - jice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus given:
 to glo - ri - fy the saints for their e - ter - nal home:

lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1746, alt.

MUSIC: John Darwall, 1770; desc. Sydney H. Nicholson, c. 1945

DARWALL'S 148th

66.66.68

Desc. © 1947 Hope Publishing Co.

Re - jice, a - gain I say, re - jice!

Re - jice, a - gain I say, re - jice!