

March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Focusing

*May we be aware of God's presence with us
and declare our love for our God.*

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Psalm 23”

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**People: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

Leader: He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of
righteousness for his name's sake.

**People: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

Leader: Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.

**People: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

HYMN No. 377: “It Is Well with My Soul”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Wondrous God, we confess that at times our doubts and fears override our hope and faith. Forgive us when we lose sight of the joy of Your love and instead fall into despair and gloom. Lift up our spirits, Lord, and help us to remember the promise of new life here and now, not just the hope of resurrection for the future. We give thanks for Your Son, Jesus the Christ, who continues to offer us new life, who continues to turn us around and upside down, who continues to break down the walls of death in our own life. Forgive us, restore us and renew us. In the name of our Savior, Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

We are forgiven, loved and restored, receiving the gift and promise of new life and resurrection. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and Your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what You say to us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Guide My Feet" African/American Spiritual
Patty and David Hurlburt

GOSPEL READING: John 9:1-7

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON

Rev. Martha Epstein

"In Right Paths"

INVITATION TO OFFERING

❖ Prayer of Dedication

God of all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer; and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral prayer

Response

POSTLUDE

United Methodist Church

12 Commerce Street

Clinton, CT 06413

Our Mission

*We celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit;
being and making disciples of Christ
by sharing God's gifts through word and deed.*