

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
**A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP**

Sunday, March 22, 2020, 10:30 a.m.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:** "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" (RESIGNATION tune, arr. Mark Hayes)

**Call to Worship:**

*Leader:* In scripture, we are told of the importance of assembling ourselves together for worship.

*People:* ***Strangely, right now, that becomes practically impossible.***

*Leader:* Physically, yes, but we gather together spiritually in our bond of love.

*People:* ***Lord, help us to experience the love we feel even within our social distance.***

*ALL:* ***We are ready to worship Christ, the head of our church, who created this bond of love.***

**Opening Hymn 292:** "The Gift of Love"

**Opening Prayer:**

Gracious God and loving Lord, we thank you that even in times of a worldwide health crisis and great uncertainty, we gather within the loving care of the great shepherd of our souls. We trust in the provisions, leadership, comfort, and security that our shepherd provides. In this time of distress, we cast all our cares upon you, knowing that you have been pursuing us always with goodness and mercy. During this time of worship, may you discover open hearts and minds that we may dwell with you today, tomorrow, and always. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Scripture Reading:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13

**A Time for Giving**

*Offertory:* "Teach Me to Love" (John W. Peterson)

**Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn 55:** "The Lord's My Shepherd"

**Scriptures Reading:** Psalm 23

**Sermon:** "THIS IS A DARK VALLEY"

**Benediction**

**Benediction Response:** "Let Us Now Depart in Thy Peace"

Let us now depart in thy peace, blessed Jesus. Send us to our homes with God's love in our hearts. Let not the busy world claim all our loyalties. Keep us ever mindful, dear Lord, of Thee.

*The flowers today are given in celebration of Ruth Lewis's 99th birthday on March 27  
by her daughters, Barbara Uhlemann and Beverly Wilson, and their families.*

## **1 Samuel 16:1-13**

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

## **Psalm 23**

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.

## The Gift of Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-3  
Hal H. Hopson, 1933-

Traditional English Melody  
Adapt. by Hal H. Hopson, 1933-

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire,  
2. Though I may give all I pos - sess,  
3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol,

And have the gift to all in - spire,  
And striv - ing so my love pro - fess,  
Our spir - its long to be made whole.

And have not love, my words are vain,  
But not be giv'n by love with - in,  
Let in - ward love guide ev - 'ry deed;

As sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.  
The prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.  
By this we wor - ship, and are freed.

# The Lord's My Shepherd

55

Based on Psalm 23  
Scottish Psalter, 1650, alt.

Jessie S. Irvine, 1836-1887

1. The Lord's my shep - herd, I'll not want; He makes me  
2. My soul He doth re - store a - gain; And me to  
3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I  
4. My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres - ence  
5. Good - ness and mer - cy all my life Shall sure - ly

down to lie In pas - tures green; He lead - eth  
walk doth make With - in the paths of right - eous -  
fear no ill, For Thou art with me, and Thy  
of my foes; My head Thou dost with oil a -  
fol - low me; And in God's house for ev - er -

me The qui - et wa - ters by.  
ness, E'en for His own name's sake.  
rod And staff me com - fort still.  
noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.  
more My dwell - ing - place shall be. A - men.

CRIMOND  
CM

*Providence*

**THE FATHER**