May 7, 2017

William Stafford remembers being in the first grade:

First Grade

In the play Amy didn't want to be

anybody; so she managed the curtain.

Sharon wanted to be Amy. But Sam

wouldn't let anybody be anybody else--

he said it was wrong. "All right," Steve said,

"I'll be me, but I don''t like it."

So Amy was Amy,and we didn't have the play.

And Sharon cried.

Gathering

PRELUDE

Gathering Song   Savior, like a Shepard Lead Us   NCH# 252

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, INVOCATION

Call to Celebration

ONE: God, our Shepherd, invites us to this place.
ALL: God invites us to rest in grassy meadows, and leads us beside restful waters.
ONE: God has set a table for us in the presence of our enemies.
ALL: God has given us so much, it is as if our cup overflows!
ONE: Come, let us gather in the house of our God.

Song of Welcome   My Shepard Is the Living God NCH# 247

Grounding

Opening Prayer

We gather as followers of Jesus, who embodied love and showed us how to be the very presence of God. May our faith deepen beyond personal strength and become the story we tell with every breath of our lives. Amen.

Food for Thought
"For millions of years flowers have been producing thorns. For millions of years sheep have been eating them all the same. And it's not serious, trying to understand why flowers go to such trouble to produce thorns that are good for nothing? It's not important, the war between the sheep and the

flowers? It's no more serious and more important than the numbers that fat red gentleman is adding up? Suppose I happen to know a unique flower, one that exists nowhere in the world except on my planet, one that a little sheep can wipe out in a single bite one morning, just like that, without even realizing what he'd doing - that isn't important? If someone loves a flower of which just one example exists among all the millions and millions of stars, that's enough to make him happy when he looks at the stars. He tells himself 'My flower's up there somewhere...' But if the sheep eats the flower, then for him it's as if, suddenly, all the stars went out. And that isn't important?"
— **Antoine de Saint-Exupéry**, **The Little Prince**

Spirit Sightings

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication
We bring what we have, O God. We know there are many around us who are in need, and while we cannot do everything, we know that you can take what we offer and inspire us to use it to make a difference. May these gifts, brought with glad and generous hearts, be of service in love. Amen.

Words before the scriptures are read:
Whether you take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth or story, listen to these words now, for the meaning they might hold for us on this day.

Scriptural Text Psalm 23 The Divine Shepherd

A Psalm of David.

1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
2   He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;[a]
3   he restores my soul.[b]
He leads me in right paths[c]
    for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,[d]
    I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
    your rod and your staff—
    they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me
    in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;
   my cup overflows.
⁶Surely[e] goodness and mercy[f] shall follow me
   all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
   my whole life long.[g]

Response: May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives. Amen

A Chorus of Voices Go Gently, Go Lightly Or Psalm 23?

Message   Comfort   Rev. Curran Reichert

Musical Reflection Could be Psalm 23 Booby Mc Ferrand

Invitation to Communion

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Distribution and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Going With Gladness

Sending Forth

Go out in peace to follow Jesus, our Shepherd.
Receive the shepherd's care, and care for others.
Model the grace of God in our world that others will know
they want to be a part of what we have
as God's people. Amen.

Singing Forth Go Gently, Go Lightly Insert Chorus only