

**“Enfolded by Love”**

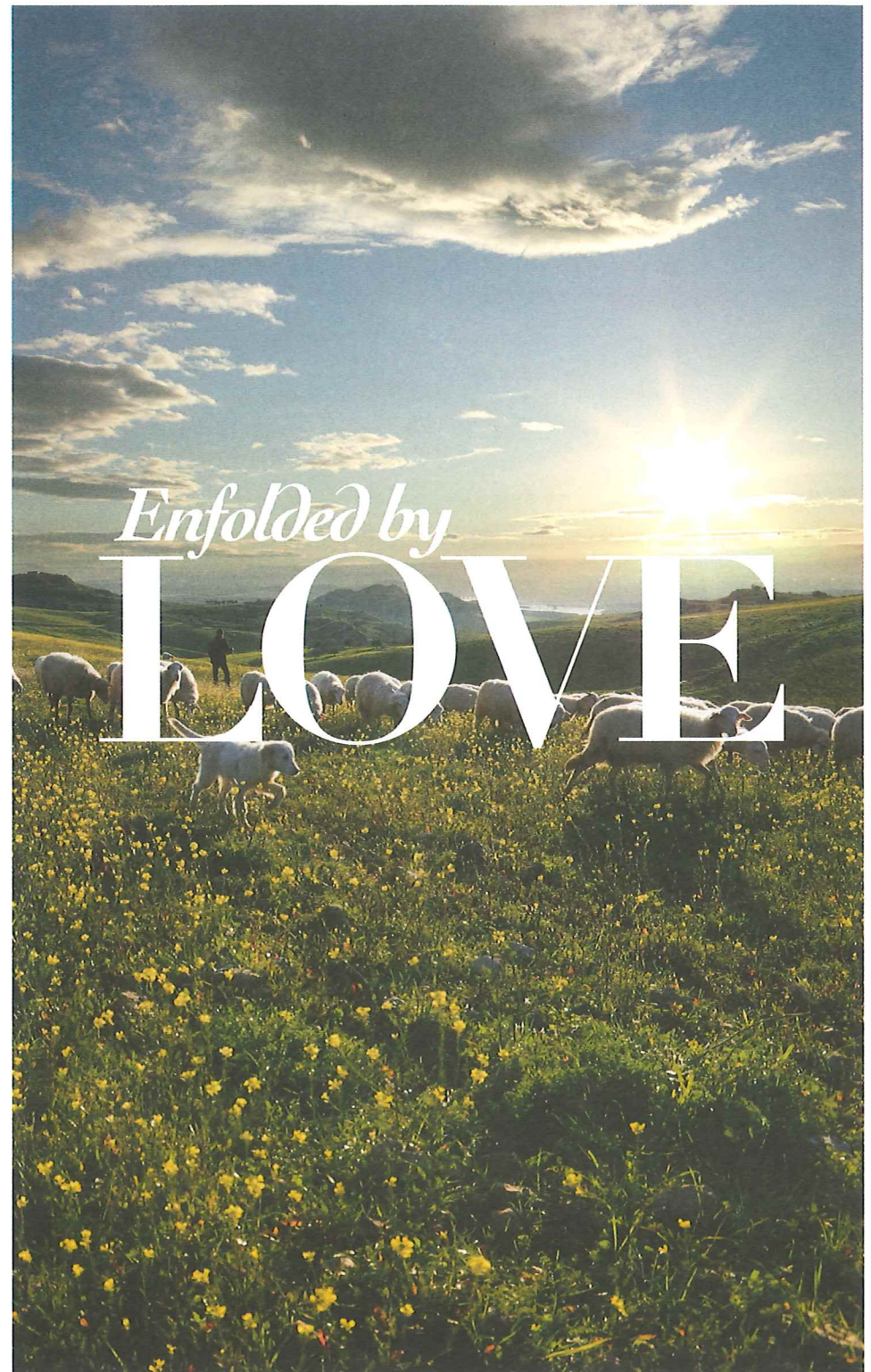
Today is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday. In an increasingly urban culture, Shepherd can be a difficult metaphor to grasp. But, for some ministers, the metaphor of shepherd is very powerful, precisely because their work with livestock helps inform their ministry.

When she was asked what about ministry and shepherding crosses over, Catherine Foote (who describes herself as retired from ministry, but still shepherding) checked in from England, where she had traveled to participate in sheep dog trials.

“Ha!” she wrote, “Well, that would be just about everything! But I would say it has kept me aware of the everyday, ordinary diligence and joy of ministry. Sheep need to be fed, every day. Watered, every day. Tended, every day. And if I stop to notice, the work brings me joy, every day.”

Although she’s not a shepherd, Jackie Hibbard of Dancing Spirit Equine Facilitated Learning and Coaching and associate pastor at community UCC Boulder works extensively with animals and their connections to humans. She checked in about her work with horses. “Horses have helped me learn so much about myself and my leadership style. I could talk about this for paragraphs, but two simple learnings are: they help me know when I’m not being clear and when I’m not fully present. I am a better minister and listener, because of what horses have taught me.”

Think about the relationships you have had with animals. How have those relationships deepened your relationship with God and with your sense of calling and vocation?



Bismarck-Mandan Area  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck, ND 58501

701-223-2915 [www.uccbismarck.org](http://www.uccbismarck.org)

April 21, 2024 at 10 AM

Pastor: Rev. Gretchen Deeg | Liturgist: Mary Beth Rush

Music: Jeanne Kolberg | Video: Dana Schaar Jahner

\*Rise in body or in spirit.

**\*NO MATTER**

Sing! 35

No matter who, no matter what  
No matter where you are on the journey of life;  
You're welcome, welcome in this place.  
Accepted and welcomed by God's grace.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

**All: We are one in Christ.**

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION<sup>2</sup>**

**\*HYMN** For the Beauty of the Earth

NCH 28

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

*After the offering, children are invited to attend Sunday School or remain in worship.*

**Act**

**Learn**

**Pray**

**OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, our heavenly host;  
Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>3</sup>**

**God of change, we want to be transformed: where there is forgetfulness about creation, may I be a remembrance of your love for the earth. Where there is unawareness of relationship with the earth, let me remind people, we are of the earth. Where there is only talk about private property, may I remind folks that creation belongs to You. When we only talk and preach and pray about humans, let me pray with animals and plants, trees and rivers, valleys and mountains. Where there is a spirituality of words only, may I touch the ground, lean on a tree, hold a plant, touch the water, breathe a long breath, and listen to the birds. Let me be like the stones that shout out the good news of Christ. Amen.**

**\*GLORIA**

Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen

**SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 23

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

Lift Your Voice and Rejoice!

**SCRIPTURE**

John 10:11-18

**SERMON**

**HYMN** Teach Me

Sing! 165

**DEDICATION OF OUR ACTING, LEARNING, PRAYING<sup>4</sup>**

**All: Together we are stronger.**

**\*HYMN** Take My Gifts

NCH 562

**\*CARRY GOD'S LOVE**



## Thank You for Worshiping with Us!

Your offerings are essential for the ongoing ministry of this congregation. Donations can be made using this QR code, online at [www.uccbismarck.org/donate](http://www.uccbismarck.org/donate), mailed to the church, or placed in the offering box.

## Sponsored in Honor of Family



Today is sponsored in honor of my family, past and present. My heritage is Italian and for Italians, family is everything. I remember lessons that I have been taught from my great-grandmother, grandmother, mother, husband(although he is not Italian), children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I know the

Holy Spirit has been with every single one of them, my great-grandmother before I was born and continues with my great-grandchildren. My family has been truly blessed and are a blessing.

*Sponsored by Camille Grothier*

Help us fill the 2024 sponsorship calendar. If you would like to sponsor a future Sunday, contact the church office at 223-2915 or visit [uccbismarck.org/donate](http://uccbismarck.org/donate). Sponsorships are \$500.

## Evening of Poetry and Peace - April 27, 6-8PM

Open mic poetry reading, peace poem writing exercise, music, and snacks. Bring a poem or two about peace, hope, or nature written by you or a favorite author. No need to read aloud to attend.

## New Bible Study

Explore the Bible alongside theological perspectives from across the globe. This Bible study will be held on Mondays from April 29 to May 20 in the church library and online.

## Church Picture Day - May 5

We're updating the church directory! A professional photographer will be at the church on May 5 to capture individual and family portraits. Sign up for your family picture in the fellowship hall over the next three Sundays or online using the Google scheduler:

<https://calendar.app.google/cr4xcAQ3WHma4p5b7>



## THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES: April 21 - 28

- Sunday:** 11 AM Earth Day Bake Sale & Luncheon  
12 Noon [Online](#) Fellowship
- Monday:** 5:15 PM Christian Education (in-person & [online](#))  
6 PM Movie Night "Common Ground"
- Tuesday:** 1 PM Quilting/Knitting  
5:30 PM Trustees (in-person & [online](#))
- Wednesday:** 6 PM "Can We Talk?" (Unitarian Universalist)  
6 PM Youth Group/Confirmation (Unitarian Universalist)  
7 PM Choir Practice
- Friday:** 8:30 AM Bible Study (in-person & [online](#))
- Saturday:** 6 PM An Evening of Poetry & Peace
- Sunday:** 10 AM Worship (in-person & [online](#))  
10:20 AM Sunday School  
12 Noon [Online](#) Fellowship

## Earth Day Bake Sale & Luncheon - Today

Following worship today the Sunday School kids are holding an art, crafts & bake sale with a luncheon to support endangered animals.

## Earth Day Movie Night - April 22 @ 6 PM



Early release screening and discussion of the documentary "Common Ground" about regenerative agriculture and unjust practices in our food systems. Meet at church!

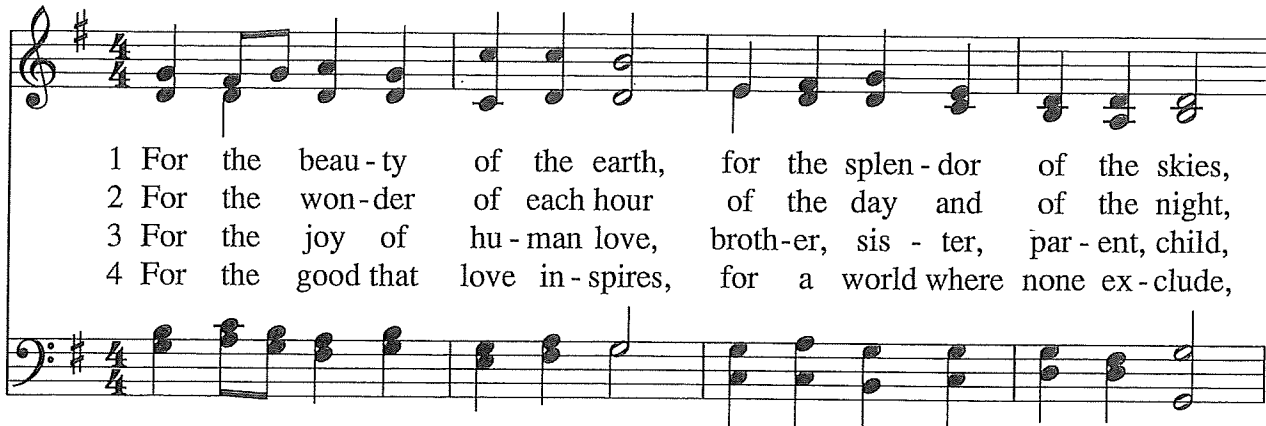
## OUR PRAYER LIST

Brody & Taylar Benson (Jeff & Wanda Benson's nephew & wife), Judi Allen, Jasten Bearstail (Cherly Dank's family friend), Matthew Nitschke and family, Preston Danks (Cheryl Danks' nephew), Robyn Richter (Kyle Eisenbraun's aunt), Amy Thomson (Jane Thomson's daughter-in-law), Herb Ritz, Beryl Dinkins (Kyle Eisenbraun's grandma), Maggie Demaree, Doretta Reule, Macyeo Franks (Jane Thomson's grandson), Bella & Kayla Bruning, Michael Bruning, Perry Weekes, Howard Etson, Camille Grothier, East Timor, Refugees

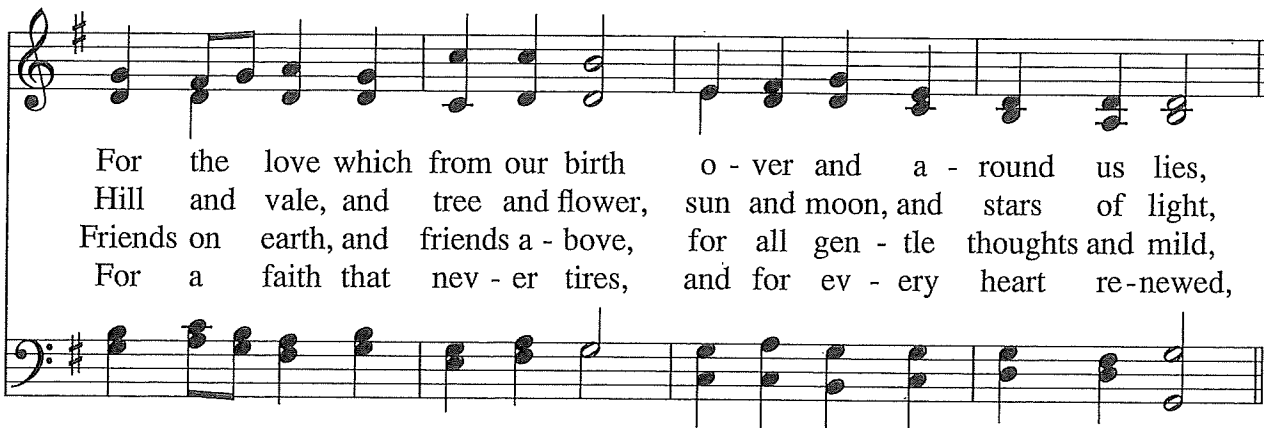
\*Contact the church office to be added to our weekly prayer list.

- <sup>1</sup> Adapted. Rev. Michelle L. Torigian. "Be the Church: Protect the Environment." 2016.
- <sup>2</sup> Alydia Smith. "Act/Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis." 2023. 127.
- <sup>3</sup> Adapted. Cláudio Carvalhaes. "Lenten Journey with the Earth through the Stations of the Cross." 2021.
- <sup>4</sup> Adapted. Brenda Riley of Knox United Church. "For the Love of Creation" adaptation. 2023.

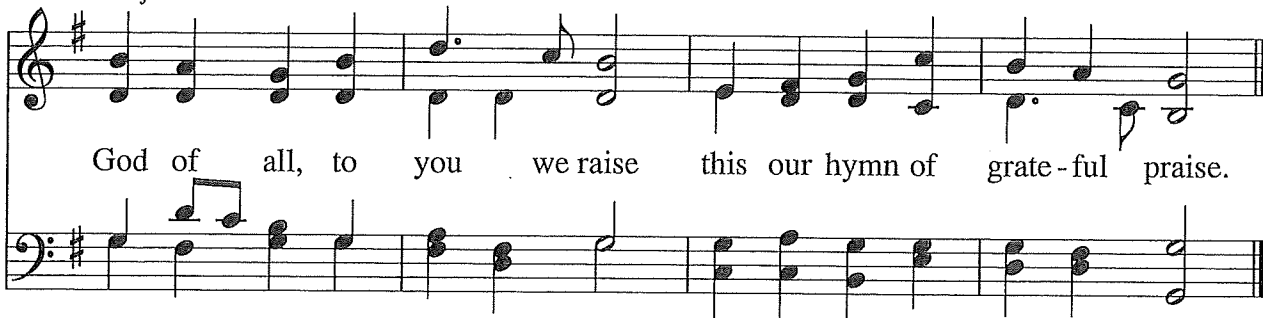
## For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, *Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.*St. 4, *Miriam Therese Winter, 1993*


1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,  
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 4 For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,



For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,  
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,  
 For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,

*Refrain*


God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

*Folliott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.*

Tune: DIX 7.7.7. with refrain

*Conrad Kocher, 1838**Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861*

## Teach Me



1. Teach me to live with-in your\_\_\_\_\_ will.\_\_\_\_\_
2. Teach me your gen - tle-ness, my\_\_\_\_\_ Lord.\_\_\_\_\_
3. Teach me you love me, my dear\_\_\_\_\_ friend.\_\_\_\_\_
4. Teach me to live with-in your\_\_\_\_\_ will.\_\_\_\_\_



Teach me your peace and hold me still.\_\_\_\_\_

Soft - en my rough - ness I im - plore.\_\_\_\_\_

Des - pite a will that sel - dom bends.\_\_\_\_\_

Teach me your peace and hold me still.\_\_\_\_\_

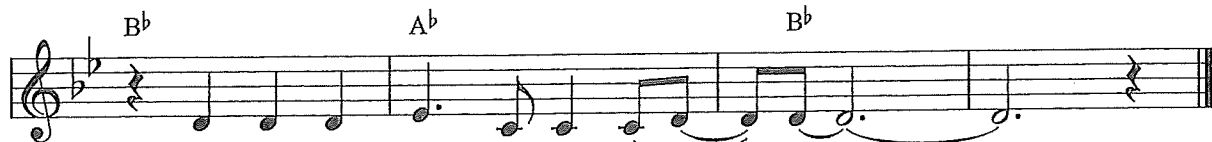


Show me the way my soul\_ to fill.\_\_\_\_\_

Show me that I can - not\_ af - ford.\_\_\_\_\_

Show me the joy and com-fort you send.\_\_\_\_\_

Show me the way my soul\_ will fill.\_\_\_\_\_



When I will live with-in your\_\_\_\_\_ will.\_\_\_\_\_

To live the way that I have\_\_\_\_\_ forged.\_\_\_\_\_

If I but o - pen and at - tend.\_\_\_\_\_

When I will live with-in your\_\_\_\_\_ will.\_\_\_\_\_

## Take My Gifts

562

*Shirley Erena Murray, 1991*

1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,  
 2 Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your Spir - it sowed,  
 3 Take what - ev - er I can of - fer— gifts that I have yet to find,

gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free,  
 har - vest of your own com - pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,  
 skills that I am slow to sharp - en, tal - ents of the hand and mind,

now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,  
 spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,  
 things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:

now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!  
 tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.  
 take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

*Shirley Erena Murray recounted that Colin Gibson composed this tune for her stewardship text "almost instantaneously." Gibson has served as professor at the University of Otago, as*

Tune: TALAVERA TERRACE 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Colin Gibson, 1991  
 Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA