

**Morning Worship**  
**Sunday, April 25, 2021, 10:00 am**  
**4th Sunday of Easter**

**Beginning Music** "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

**Prelude** "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"

**Words to ponder:** "When we love with our lives, we become reflections of God for all to see."

**Additional Scriptures for this Sunday:** Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24

**Scriptures for the 5th Sunday of Easter:** Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31;  
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

**Welcome** Pastor Ed

**Call to Worship** (*Responsively*) Leader

Leader: Love one another, even when love involves risk.

**People: We love as God loves us.**

Leader: Love and care for others, even when caring is hard.

**People: We love and care as God loves and cares for us.**

Leader: Love in truth and action.

**People: By this we are known as children of God.**

**Opening Prayer** (*Unison*) Leader

Shepherd of love, guide our thoughts and our actions, that we too might become shepherds of love. Speak to our hearts as we listen this day, that our hearts may expand and embrace all of your sheep. Love us fully, that we might love all of the flocks of your world as fully as we are loved by you. In your shepherding love, we pray. Amen.

**Opening Hymn** "The Gift of Love" Heather Arnold,  
Sheryl Rajpolt, RoseAnne Homola (Pianist)

**Offering One Another the Peace of Christ**

**A Time for Children of All Ages** Sheryl Rajpolt

**WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD**

**New Testament** Acts 4:5-12 (NRSV) Leader  
Leader: The Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God!

**Gospel Reading** John 10:11-18 (NRSV) Leader  
Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.  
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ!

**Hymn of Preparation** "Open My Ears, Lord"

**Sermon** "*Modern Day Shepherds*" Pastor Ed

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**Prayer of Confession** (*Unison*) Leader  
Merciful shepherd, give us the grace to love as you love. Give us the courage to protect and care for others, even when we are afraid. Grant us the strength to love in truth and action, even when loving this way challenges us. Awaken our curiosity and empathy, even when we tend to neglect the needs of others. Forgive us when our love is absent, and show us how to offer our love with more than just words. Shepherd us in our loving and in our living, that others may see in us the fruit of your goodness and mercy. In your love and grace, we pray. Amen.

**Silent Meditation**

**Words of Assurance**

**We Lift Up to God Our Prayers and Concerns** Bill Florin

**Silent Prayer followed by Pastoral Prayer**

**The Offering of our Gifts** (*Please mail in your offerings*)

**Doxology**

**Offering Prayer** (*Unison*)  
Shepherd of love, bless these gifts with the power and presence of your love. May your love bring healing to a world in need of your touch. May your grace bring hope to a world in need of your promise. And may our love be a sign, for all to see, that you, who are love, are present in the world today. Amen.

## **WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**

**Sending Hymn** "I Will Follow You"

**The Lord's Prayer** (*Unison*)

**Benediction**

**Benediction Response** "The Gift of Love" Heather Arnold,  
Sheryl Rajpolt, RoseAnne Homola (Pianist)

### *Our Worship Tech Team*

Rose Aiello, Eunice Alberts, Thayer Doyle, Patti Early, Bill Florin,  
RoseAnne Homola, Amy Rajpolt, Sheryl Rajpolt

Pastor: Reverend Ed Dayton  
Leader: Jan Filmer; Children's Time: Sheryl Rajpolt  
Singers: Heather Arnold, Sheryl Rajpolt  
Pianist/Organist: Ron Giannattasio and RoseAnne Homola  
Joys and Concerns: Bill Florin,  
UMC Monroe Lay Leader: Rose Aiello  
LHUMC Lay Leaders: Maggie Flemma and Tim Quinn  
Music Leaders: Patti Early, RoseAnne Homola, Eunice Alberts



**Join Zoom meeting:**  
**<https://umcom.zoom.us/j/97378634387?pwd=WG9Hd0xWUzBEUm4xdm1oR2svQkFwQT09>**  
**or by dialing in by phone:**  
**1.929.205.6099 US (Meeting ID: 94299647637)**  
**Password: 2020**

**United Methodist Church of Monroe**  
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**Long Hill United Methodist Church**  
Main and Elizabeth Streets  
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

**Sunday, April 25, 2021**  
**"Growing in the Body of Christ"**

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