

Quiet the noise around and within so that we might better recognize your word and do your will. Come close, calm our fears, go ahead of us, so that we might see you clearly, enter by the gate, and find our rest, and our salvation.

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(silent confession)

Assurance and Peace John 10:14-15

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep."

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

Throughout this week, continue to find ways to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children's Message

Downloadable materials for children (and the young at heart!) can be found on the church website (www.CalvinChurchRI.org) with the worship materials.

Scripture John 10:1-15; Acts 2:42-47

Sermon *Gates, Shepherds, and What We Know*

Hymn *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

Offering Psalm 23:5

"You prepare a table before me...you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

Please prayerfully consider the time, talents, or gifts you have received, and how you can give them back to God in love and service to others.

We understand that these are uncertain and difficult times. But that is all the more reason that the work of the church continues. Please prayerfully continue to give your gifts to this ministry. You can take just a moment to give online through our website, or prepare a check to be mailed.

Prayer of Dedication and the Prayers of the People

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God of goodness and mercy, you walk with us through the darkest valleys, provide for us in the direst of circumstances, lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. In joy and gratitude, we offer you these gifts. Bless them and use them, we pray, to show others the gate of salvation and the abundant life made possible through your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Almighty God, when we consider what you have done for us, we are filled with awe and wonder. You sent your Son to save us. You set the table for us and Jesus himself serves us. You do not leave us in the dark but send the light of Christ to guide us in the ways of grace and truth. You give us your living Word, a compassionate community, the bread of heaven and the prayers of the faithful. We lack nothing and therefore we will fear no evil.

We ask, Good Shepherd, for your rod and staff to guide and comfort us. While we lament our inability to be together in churches, we rejoice in the ability to praise you no matter where we are gathered. Knowing that you give us the gift of prayer and the responsibility to care for each other, we lift up to now those who feel as if they have been in the valley of darkness for far too long. Bring comfort to the brokenhearted and relieve to the oppressed. Grant peace to those afflicted with anxiety and heal the sick. Strengthen all of those doing essential work, protect them and ease their fears and those of the ones who love them. Provide for those who have lost jobs. Give wisdom and discernment to people in positions of power. Help us all to look to the interest of others so that all may have the abundant life Christ came to give.

Lord, you call us by name and show us where to go and how to serve. You are the gate through which our comings and goings gain purpose and participate in your present and coming kingdom. Help us better to hear your voice so that we would not submit to lesser gods or vain pursuits. As we wrestle with the stress of this season, the uncertainty and the suffering of this pandemic, lead us in the ways of righteousness, make us brave in our kindness, tireless in our work for justice, humble in our walk with you. Do not let us grow weary of doing good.

And now, Lord, hear us as we lift up those whose names are known to us in our church community:

[silent prayers]

As we come together, across time and space, with the whole communion of the saints, we seek to reflect your love, sharing with one another, supporting the weak, tending to the vulnerable, breaking bread with all people, knowing we are reconciled and saved through the grace of our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, who taught us to boldly pray together:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

Hymn

Christ Is Alive!

Benediction

Listen for the voice of your Good Shepherd. Hold fast to what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering. Honor all people. Love and serve the Lord your God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

May the love of God the Father, The grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, One God, be with you, now and forever. Amen.