

**or on our church website  
at [westminsterakron.org](http://westminsterakron.org)**

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*If you are joining us on Facebook Live, then you can find a copy of today's bulletin on our church website at [westminsterakron.org](http://westminsterakron.org).*

Brad Hall

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.  
**He lays down his life for his sheep.**  
 The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.  
**He knows us, and we belong to him.**  
 The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.  
**He speaks, and we listen for his voice.**

1 O wor-ship the King, all glo-rious a-bove! O grate-ful-ly  
 2 O tell of God's might; O sing of God's grace, whose robe is the  
 3 The earth with its store of won-ders un-told, Al-might-y, your  
 4 Your boun-ti-ful care what tongue can re-cite? It breathes in the  
 5 Frail chil-dren of dust, and fee-ble as frail, in you do we  
 sing God's power and God's love: our shield and de-fend-er, the  
 light, whose can-o-py space, whose char-iots of wrath the deep  
 power has found-ed of old; es-tab-lished it fast by a  
 air; it shines in the light; it streams from the hills; it de-  
 trust, nor find you to fail; your mer-cies, how ten-der, how  
 An-cient of Days, pa-vil-ioned in splen-dor and gird-ed with praise.  
 thun-der-clouds form; and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.  
 change-less de-cree, and round it has cast, like a man-tle, the sea.  
 scends to the plain, and sweet-ly dis-tills in the dew and the rain.  
 firm to the end, our Mak-er, De-fend-er, Re-deem-er, and Friend.

## ENCOUNTER

### Call to Confession

If we are honest with ourselves, our hearts condemn us. But God, who knows everything, is greater than our hearts; and God's deep desire for us is mercy, love, and peace. Therefore let us confess our sin.

### Prayer of Confession

**Lord, have mercy on us. We talk about love, but our actions betray us. We talk about love, but we neglect the poor. We talk about love, but we fail to love one another. Lord, have mercy on us. Forgive us and abide in us by the power of your Spirit so that our lives may show our love for Jesus Christ, in whose body we live and in whose name we pray. Amen.**

*Silence is observed.*

Response 574

Lord, Have Mercy

*Kyrie*

**Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

We seek God's grace with boldness because we trust in Jesus Christ, the One who loves us and laid down his life for us. This is the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*Response 567

Glory Be to the Father

*Gloria Patri*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever, Amen. Amen. Amen.**

\*Passing the Peace

We invite you now to greet one another saying, **The peace of Christ be with you.**

Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the goods of the world and sees a brother or sister in need, yet refuses to help? With love for God and neighbor, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Anthem

The Lord's My Shepherd

Arr. Malcolm Archer

*The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want, he makes me down to lie. In pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by. He leadeth me, he leadeth me, the quiet waters by.*

*My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make within the paths of righteousness, E'en for his own name's sake. Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for his own name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale Yet will I fear no ill; For thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still. For thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still.*

*My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes; My head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows. My head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.*

*Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me; And in God's house for evermore my dwelling place shall be. And in God's house for evermore my dwelling place shall be.*

\*Response 592      Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow      *Doxology*  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Time with Young Disciples

## GROW

Prayer for Illumination

Lord God, good shepherd, by the leading of your Spirit, help us to listen for your voice and follow in your paths all the days of our lives; in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

The First Lesson

1 John 3:16-24

New Testament

16 We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us — and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. 17 How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? 18 Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. 19 And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him 20 whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21 Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; 22 and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24 All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Second Lesson

John 10:11-18

New Testament

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away — and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.  
14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,  
15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.  
16 I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.  
17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.  
18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

The Wolf and Sheep

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

## SERVE

\*Affirmation of Faith

Based on Psalm 23

**The Lord is my shepherd who takes care of all of my needs. The Lord watches over me, gives me a home to live in, and brings meaning to my life. The Lord is my shepherd who takes care of all of my needs. God guides me along the right way. Even when I am walking by myself in a strange place, I do not feel scared because I know that the Lord is with me to help me and give me courage. The Lord is my shepherd who takes care of all of my needs. God gives me food to eat. I always have enough to drink. The Lord has blessed me with many things. I will never be able to repay God’s kindness. The Lord is my shepherd who takes care of all of my needs.**

Prayers of the People

With boldness, let us offer our prayers to the shepherd of our souls, saying,  
**God of goodness and mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church in every place...

Gather us together and make us one, one in ministry and mission to the world, so that there will be one flock, one shepherd.

**God of goodness and mercy, hear our prayer.**

Anoint all leaders with your wisdom so that they will use their power to help the poor and defend the vulnerable.

Strengthen those who work each day to heal the sick, welcome the outcasts, and help sisters and brothers in need.

Comfort all who are suffering; walk with them through dark valleys and restore them, body, mind, and soul.

Loving God, by the power of your Spirit, help us to keep your commandments and to love one another with the love of Jesus, in whose holy name we pray.

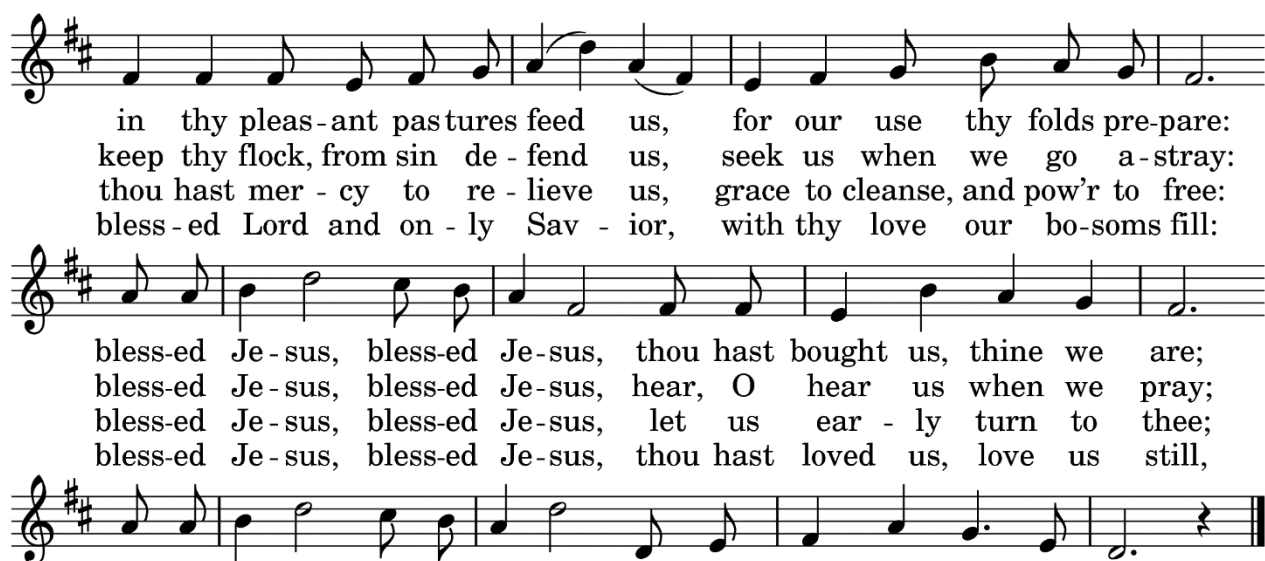
And finally, together as the people of God, let us offer the words of the Lord's Prayer, saying in one voice:

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us 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.**

BRADBURY



1. Sa - vior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy ten - der care;  
2. We are thine; do thou be - friend us, be the guardian of our way;  
3. Thou hast promised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
4. Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor; ear - ly let us do thy will;



in thy pleas-ant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds pre-pare:  
 keep thy flock, from sin de-fend us, seek us when we go a-stray:  
 thou hast mer-cy to re-lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:  
 bless-ed Lord and on-ly Sav-ior, with thy love our bo-soms fill:

bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;  
 bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear, O hear us when we pray;  
 bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, let us ear-ly turn to thee;  
 bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, thou hast loved us, love us still,

bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.  
 bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear, O hear us when we pray.  
 bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, let us ear-ly turn to thee.  
 bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

### \*Charge and Benediction

In the name of the good shepherd, love one another.

May the goodness and mercy of God follow you all the days of your life, and, at your life's end, may you dwell in the house of the Lord forever. **Alleluia!**

Postlude

Chorale

J.K.F. Fischer

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The flowers In The Chancel** are given by Mark Nelson and Jane Nelson Hutchison to celebrate the occasion of Roger and Martha Nelson's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 28.

**Zoom Fellowship Gathering** will immediately follow online worship today and Sunday, May 16 from 11:30 a.m. until noon. Pastor Jon will facilitate a friendly space for congregation members to chat using Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85689002825?pwd=RWRyUC82a2tuWWo1SnFyZStMSoFQQTo9> - Meeting ID: 856 8900 2825 - Passcode: 493434

**First Sunday Food Collection May 2, 2021** The Tweens will be waiting to receive your food donation in the driveway behind the church from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Here is a list of our current needs:

Tuna Fish  
Tuna Helper  
Toilet paper  
Rice and Pasta Packets  
Applesauce and Canned Fruit  
Kid's Cereal  
Canned Chicken

Please note that there is no need for peanut butter at this time. Thank you for your generous donations to this ministry.

**CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for the week of April 25–May 1, 2021**

**Sunday, 4/25**

9:00 am Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary  
9:45 am Tween Sunday School via Zoom  
10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Live  
11:30 am Fellowship Zoom Meeting for Congregation  
1:00 pm Youth service Project at Memorial Garden

**Monday, 4/26**

7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study

**Tuesday, 4/27**

7:00 pm Session Zoom Meeting

**Thursday, 4/29**

9:30 am Zoom WPC Staff Meeting  
7:00 pm Zoom Adult Education

**Saturday, 5/1**

8:00 am Food For Life in the Kitchen  
9:00 am Confirmands Zoom Meeting with Session

**Giving Online** During these difficult times, the church remains grateful for your faithful support. To give electronically on the WPC website click under the tab "online giving" and use this QR Code.



The church office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. Staff schedule in the office: **Monday** - Pastor Jon, Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. **Tuesday** - Pastor Jon, Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, and Dave Bodnar. **Wednesday** - Debby Evrard, Claudine Schooley, and Dave Bodnar. **Thursday** - Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, and Dave Bodnar. **Friday** - Pastor Jon, Claudine Schooley.