

Eagle Grove UMC and Goldfield UMC
"Look for the Shepherd" Lent Week Four

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

Welcome

Prelude and Bringing in the Light
Calling Ourselves to Worship

Hearts open, minds awake,
change us now for heaven's sake.
Leave us not alone in hatred's wake.
God, show us how, show us how to love.
Come and Fill Our Hearts (sing 2x – words on the screen)

#2157

*Opening Hymn

Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us

#381

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon.

Holy and Merciful One, in this season, we come bringing our deepest longings, and our failed attempts at satisfying them. We have often looked for love, for acceptance, and security.

We worry about what others will think of us. We forget the real power loving and caring for and about others has. We yearn for lives that matter; we desire relationships that thrive. We want less regret.

So often we fail to see that you have already given us what really matters: your love and acceptance. You provide opportunities all around us to make a difference in the lives of others. You give us a fresh start each day, inviting us to do better.

In silence, we bring to you our pleas for openness to a different way of living. *Silence*

We can be assured by the Psalmist who says that "the Lord is our shepherd... whose goodness and mercy follows us all the days of our lives."

We open our hearts, our minds, our souls, our vision to the ways of love created by God, embodied in Jesus, and already moving in us by the Spirit. We are forgiven, loved, and freed! Amen!

WE PROCLAIM

Children's Time

Scriptures for today

Psalm 23; John 9:1-41

Reflection

Pastor Alaire



WE RESPOND

Prayers of the People

Our response to the petitions will be *Kyrie* #2275

We Give our Tithes, Offerings and Ourselves

***Doxology** #95

***Prayer of Dedication**

Generous God, you tenderly care for each person you have created. You miraculously restore our spirits, and give comfort and peace. You shine light into the lives of those who are discouraged.

Guide us so that we will not regard others according to outward appearances but seek to find your love in their hearts. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves to contribute to the work of your kingdom on earth until Christ returns in glory. Amen.

***Hymn of Response** *Spirit Song* #347

WE GO FORTH

We Go Out Into the World Practice Love

Benediction

Go forth into the world, looking for love in all the right places!

**We will look for signs of The Shepherd,
tending to the world around us with love!**

We go with God, to live, to love, to share and to care. Let us sing as we follow the light

Go Now, In Peace (sing 3x, words will be on the screen) #665

Postlude

OPPORTUNITIES TO PRACTICE LOVE

Wednesday, March 22 – no afterschool activities or Confirmation Class this week.

Thursday Lenten Lunch Locations, noon – 1pm: March 23@1st Baptist;

March 30@Samuel Lutheran, UCC helping to serve.

Bring a neighbor with you.

Wednesday, March 29- 5:15pm – Everyone invited for soup, bread....and song and fellowship.

Come and meet some of the afterschool families. We'll finish up by 6pm.

Newsletter for April will come out March 29/30.

Our Lenten Coin Giving continues! There are still calendars and banks in the back of the sanctuary. Make a daily "deposit", or just write our number for the day on the calendar...and add up at the end. We are surprised each week how "much stuff" we have. Some needed, for sure, but so interesting to discover how we accumulate. Eagle Grove giving goes to Heifer Project – there's info on the back table about HPI. Goldfield's will be for the Lotus Community Project.