

First Congregational Church of Long Beach  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**APRIL 21, 2024 • 10 A.M.**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**EARTH DAY WEEKEND**

**Our Mission:**

to be a visible and prophetic presence in the church and in the world,  
to steadfastly proclaim the radically inclusive love of God,  
to be open to, and celebrate differences; to honor thinking for oneself,  
to faithfully work for the inclusion of, and justice for all people, regardless of  
age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, race or national  
origin, or any particular element of a person's total humanity, and for all of  
God 's creation.

***Please join in where words are shown in bold type.***  
***Please stand if you are able for items with an asterisk\*.***

*Centering ourselves with the sound of the chime  
and the Land Acknowledgement*

**Prelude**

Prelude on "All Things Bright and Beautiful" Dr. Marc Dickey  
By Emma Lou Diemer

Acolytes: Cecily and Sam Swierenga

**Invocation**

The Rev. Petra Malleis-Sternberg

**\*Call to Celebration**

Rev. Malleis-Sternberg and The Rev. Wally Hoeger

One: When we are scattered, Jesus our Good Shepherd gathers us in.  
**MANY: When we are lost and lonely, we can depend on this love.**  
 One: When we are oppressed, our Good Shepherd cares for us.  
**MANY: When we are threatened because of who we are, we can depend on Christ's protecting presence.**  
 One: We know this care, because Christ's tenderness has guided us for generations.  
**MANY: Let us worship our Good Shepherd, who cares for all of us with fierce love.**  
 One: Let us give thanks for Love that shepherds us.

**\*Processional Hymn #28**

For the Beauty of the Earth  
See page 7

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Hoeger

**Passing of the Peace**

Rev. Hoeger

**Welcome Song**

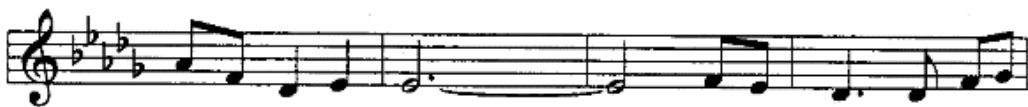
*The children are invited to come forward during this song.*



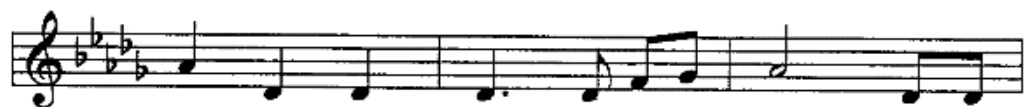
O, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, Fling the



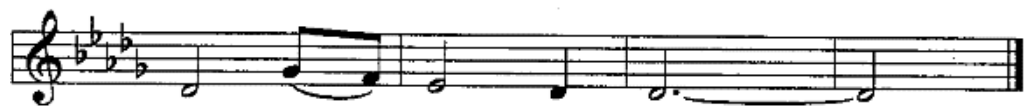
church doors o - pen wide. May there be room e - nough for



ev - 'ry - one in - side. For in God there is a



wel - come, In God we all be - long. May that



wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lohman  
Music: David Lohman

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Permission granted for congregational use.

*The children are dismissed to their Sunday School classes.*

**Scripture**

John 10:11-18

Charlotte Waldo

New Revised Standard Version, adapted

Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as God knows me and I know God. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason God loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 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 God.'

**Anthem**

O sing unto God  
By Henry Purcell  
Sanctuary Choir

**Contemporary Reading**

The 23rd Psalm (dedicated to my mother)  
By Bobby McFerrin

Charlotte Waldo

The Lord is my shepherd, I have all I need,  
She makes me lie down in green meadows.  
Beside the still waters, She will lead.  
She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,  
She leads me in the path of good things,  
She fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk through a dark and dreary land,  
There is nothing that can shake me,  
She has said She won't forsake me, I'm in her hand.  
She sets a table before me in the presence of my foes,  
She anoints my head with oil,  
and my cup overflows.

Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
And I will live in Her house,  
forever, forever and ever.  
Glory be to our Mother and Daughter  
and to the Holy of Holies.  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be  
world with out end. Amen.

**Special Music**

Mother Nature's Son  
By Lennon/McCartney  
Lisa Bode Heard, vocalist  
Curtis Heard, piano

**Sermon**

Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

**\*Hymn #479**

God Is My Shepherd  
*See page 8*

**Prayers of the People**

Rev. Hoeger

Our Common Prayer

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the people of the earth!  
With the bread we need today, feed us.  
For the hurts we inflict on one another, forgive us.  
In the time of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For your reign is in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

**Offering**

Invitation

Charlotte Waldo

Offertory

Meditation on "My Shepherd Is the Living God"  
By Robert Hebble

Dr. Dickey

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Or mail a check to First Congregational Church,  
241 Cedar Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802



\*Doxology: Old Hundredth (Hymn No. 7)  
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**  
**Praise God all creatures here below;**  
**Praise God with all the hosts above;**  
**Praise God in wonder, joy and love.**

\* Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Hoeger

**\*Recessional Hymn #569** Touch the Earth Lightly  
See page 9

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

**\*Benediction Response** Hallelujah

**Postlude** Trumpet Tune (Crisply, Love Song, Tempo Primo) Dr. Dickey  
By Andrew Carter

One License: 706147-A (in support of our livestream)

The sanctuary flowers today are provided by Pat and Bob Kalayjian. Celebrating the April anniversaries of Pat's parents, sister Elaine, and niece Loren; the April birthdays of Bob's mother Laura, sister Pat, and niece Jill; and the birthdays of our son Nick and our two grandsons, Adam and Gus.

## ***Parish Concerns***

Please remember in your prayers: Fran Holand; David Nelson (Karen Miller's brother); Beau Chandler; Ben Rockwell; Dale Whitney.

To submit joys and concerns for inclusion in the bulletin and the newsletter and to subscribe to the newsletter, contact the office: [office@firstchurchlb.org](mailto:office@firstchurchlb.org).

## ***Birthdays This Week – Happy Birthday!***

22	Kimel Conway, Doug Jones	28	Beau Chandler
23	Richard Landuyt, Melody O'Keefe, Dante Wilson	29	Margaret Brown
24	Cynthia Snell	30	Deven Dasgupta-Tsinikas

## Save the Dates

Confirmation Sunday is taking place on May 5, reception following the service. Plan to join us for this special day.

**Friday, May 3**, 7 pm: Screening of the Documentary "1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted Culture." Join us for this free event to watch the film in our sanctuary on the big screen, followed by a Q&A with the director and lead researcher. Invite your friends too, flyers to share are available in the Narthex today!

**Sunday, May 19** is the Long Beach Pride Parade! Our church will have worship on the bluff again this year at 9:30 am, next to the staging area for the parade before it begins. And we are working on fun ideas for the parade and will have a sign-up if you are interested in a shuttle option to our staging spot. More details to come, but you can start planning your outfit now!

## Order Your New First Church T-Shirts TODAY!!!

Place your order for new t-shirts at the table in the courtyard after service today and next Sunday! All orders have to be collected by Sunday, April 28 to allow for production and distribution before the Pride Parade. The cost is \$25, a wide range of sizes is available, and you get to choose between white or black shirts.



The advertisement features four t-shirts arranged in two rows. The top row shows two black shirts: the left one has a colorful circular logo and the text "First Congregational Church of Long Beach UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST"; the right one has the text "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY YOU ARE WELCOME HERE" in multi-colored letters. The bottom row shows two white shirts with the same designs. To the right of the shirts is the church's logo (a colorful circular pattern) and the text "First Congregational Church of Long Beach UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST". Below this, promotional text is displayed in yellow and white boxes: "GET YOUR VERY OWN FIRST CHURCH T-SHIRT!", "ONLY \$25.00 EACH", "YOUTH SMALL TO ADULT 5X SIZES AVAILABLE", and "AVAILABLE IN WHITE OR BLACK". At the bottom right, contact information is provided: "CONTACT KIRSTEN PICKUS KPICKUS@GMAIL.COM".

First Congregational Church  
of Long Beach  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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FIRST CHURCH T-SHIRT!**

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## 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 7.7.7.7. with refrain

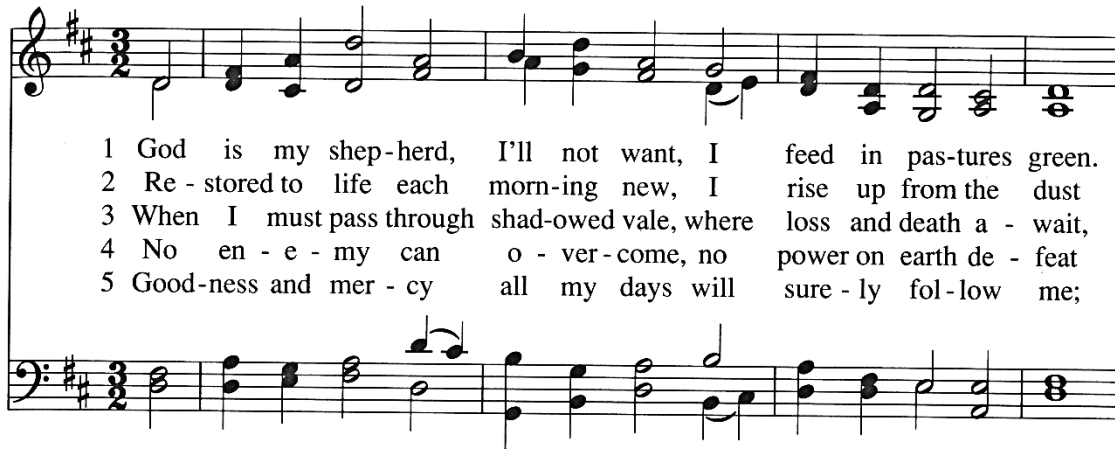
*Conrad Kocher, 1838**Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861*

## God Is My Shepherd

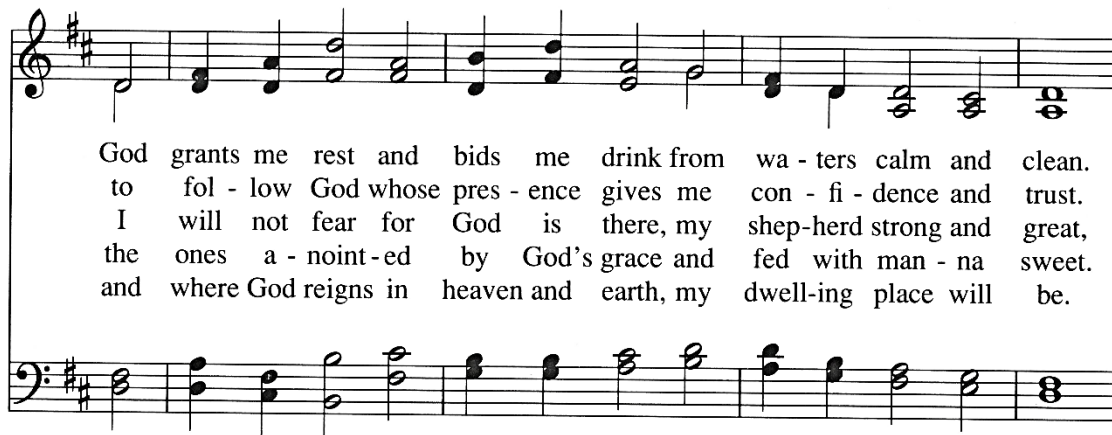
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Scottish Psalter, 1650  
*Adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992*

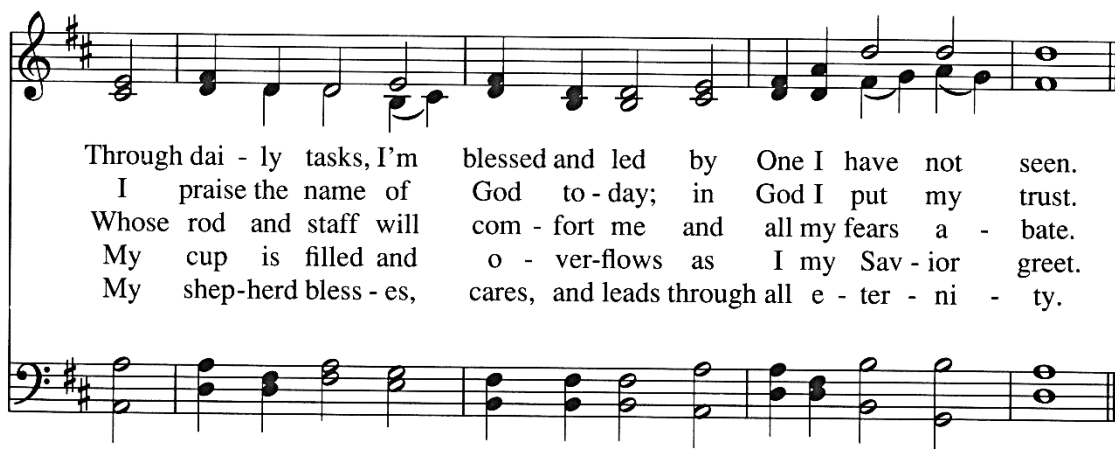
Ps. 23



1 God is my shep-herd, I'll not want, I feed in pas-tures green.  
 2 Re - stored to life each morn-ing new, I rise up from the dust  
 3 When I must pass through shad-owed vale, where loss and death a - wait,  
 4 No en - e - my can o - ver - come, no power on earth de - feat  
 5 Good-ness and mer - cy all my days will sure - ly fol - low me;



God grants me rest and bids me drink from wa - ters calm and clean.  
 to fol - low God whose pres - ence gives me con - fi - dence and trust.  
 I will not fear for God is there, my shep-herd strong and great,  
 the ones a - noint-ed by God's grace and fed with man - na sweet.  
 and where God reigns in heaven and earth, my dwell-ing place will be.



Through dai - ly tasks, I'm blessed and led by One I have not seen.  
 I praise the name of God to - day; in God I put my trust.  
 Whose rod and staff will com - fort me and all my fears a - bate.  
 My cup is filled and o - ver-flows as I my Sav - ior greet.  
 My shep-herd bless - es, cares, and leads through all e - ter - ni - ty.

*The Scottish Psalter of 1650, developed over a span of 100 years, is still in use today. Its metrical version of Psalm 23 is the most popular entry in this classic work of Protestantism.*

Tune: BROTHER JAMES' AIR 8.6.8.6.8.6.  
*James Leith Macbeth Bain, c. 1840-1925*  
*Arr. Gordon Jacob, 1934*



# Touch the Earth Lightly

Shirley Erena Murray, 1992

Unison  
Brightly

1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,  
 \* 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,  
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,  
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

\*The second verse only may be sung in A minor, omitting the sharps except where indicated in parentheses.

nour-ish the life of the world in our care:  
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,  
 wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,  
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

Gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,  
 We who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—  
 Health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,  
 Teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.  
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!  
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.  
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

Shirley Erena Murray's notes on this hymn state that the title line is borrowed from an Australian Aboriginal saying. The "clouds of disaster" mentioned in stanza 2 refer to nuclear testing by France, which New Zealand has protested at the United Nations many times.

Tune: TENDERNESS 5.5.10.D.  
 Colin Gibson, 1992

# ***This Week at First Church***

## **Sunday, April 21**

- 8:45 AM Adult Education – Pownall Room & Zoom  
9 AM All Seasons Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room  
9:30 AM Charming Chimes Rehearsal – Bell Room  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room  
10 AM Service of Celebration – Sanctuary & [YouTube.com/1stChurch](https://www.youtube.com/1stChurch)  
Sunday School: K-2nd Grades – Vaughn 1; 3rd-5th Grades –  
Klar 1; Jr. High – Sacred Space; High School – High School Rm.  
11:15 AM Beloved Bells Rehearsal – Bell Room  
11:30 AM Women’s Group – Pownall Room  
Planning Forward Forum: Spiritual & Personal Planning – Koinonia  
Room  
1:30 PM Urban Community Outreach Drop-In Center – Patterson Hall

## **Monday, April 22**

- 10 AM Archives Group – Ramsay Dining Room  
7 PM South Coast Chorale Rehearsal – Ramsay Dining Room  
Building Administrative Committee – Zoom

## **Tuesday, April 23**

- 6 PM DAYS Leaders LB – Klar 2 & 3  
7 PM Church Council Meeting – Zoom

## **Wednesday, April 24**

- 7 PM Sacred Practices – Sacred Space

## **Thursday, April 25**

- 5 PM Jubellance Rehearsal – Bell Room  
Long Beach Forward Event – Patterson Hall  
6 PM Bellissimo Rehearsal – Bell Room  
DAYS Leaders LB – Klar 2 & 3  
7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

## **Saturday, April 27**

- Spring Camp @ Pilgrim Pines  
9:30 AM Golf Group – off-site  
10 AM Urban Community Outreach Food Drive – Maple Way Alley

## **Sunday, April 28**

- 8:45 AM Adult Education – Pownall Room & Zoom  
9 AM All Seasons Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room  
9:30 AM Charming Chimes Rehearsal – Bell Room  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room  
10 AM Service of Celebration – Sanctuary & [YouTube.com/1stChurch](https://www.youtube.com/1stChurch)

Sunday School: K-2nd Grades – Vaughn 1; 3rd-5th Grades –  
Klar 1; Jr. High – Sacred Space; High School – High School Rm.  
11:15 AM Beloved Bells Rehearsal – Bell Room  
11:30 AM Confirmation Class – High School Room  
Planning Forward Forum: Financial Planning – Koinonia Room  
1:30 PM Urban Community Outreach Drop-In Center – Patterson Hall



# Planning Forward Forum Series

You are invited to join us for presentations,  
with time for Q&A, about decisions we can  
make for our later-years and end-of-life plans:

Sundays, 11:30 a.m. in the Koinonia Room

April 14 (medical planning)

April 21 (spiritual and personal planning)

April 28 (financial planning)

First Congregational Church

of Long Beach

United Church of Christ

[firstchurchlb.org](http://firstchurchlb.org)





First Congregational Church of Long Beach  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## **COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE**

Curtis Heard

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Bob Kalayjian

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**Rev. Petra Malleis-Sternberg,**

Senior Minister

**Rev. Wally Hoeger,**

Associate Minister

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Emeritus

**Rev. Katy Hyman,** Director of

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Memorial Medical Center

**Rev. Laverne R. Joseph,** Retired from

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**Tracy Halter-Balin,** Associate Director

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**Dr. Marc Dickey,** Organist

**Megan O'Toole,** Soprano Soloist

**Lisa Bode Heard,** Alto Soloist

**Charlie Carlos,** Tenor Soloist

**George Carson,** Bass Soloist

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