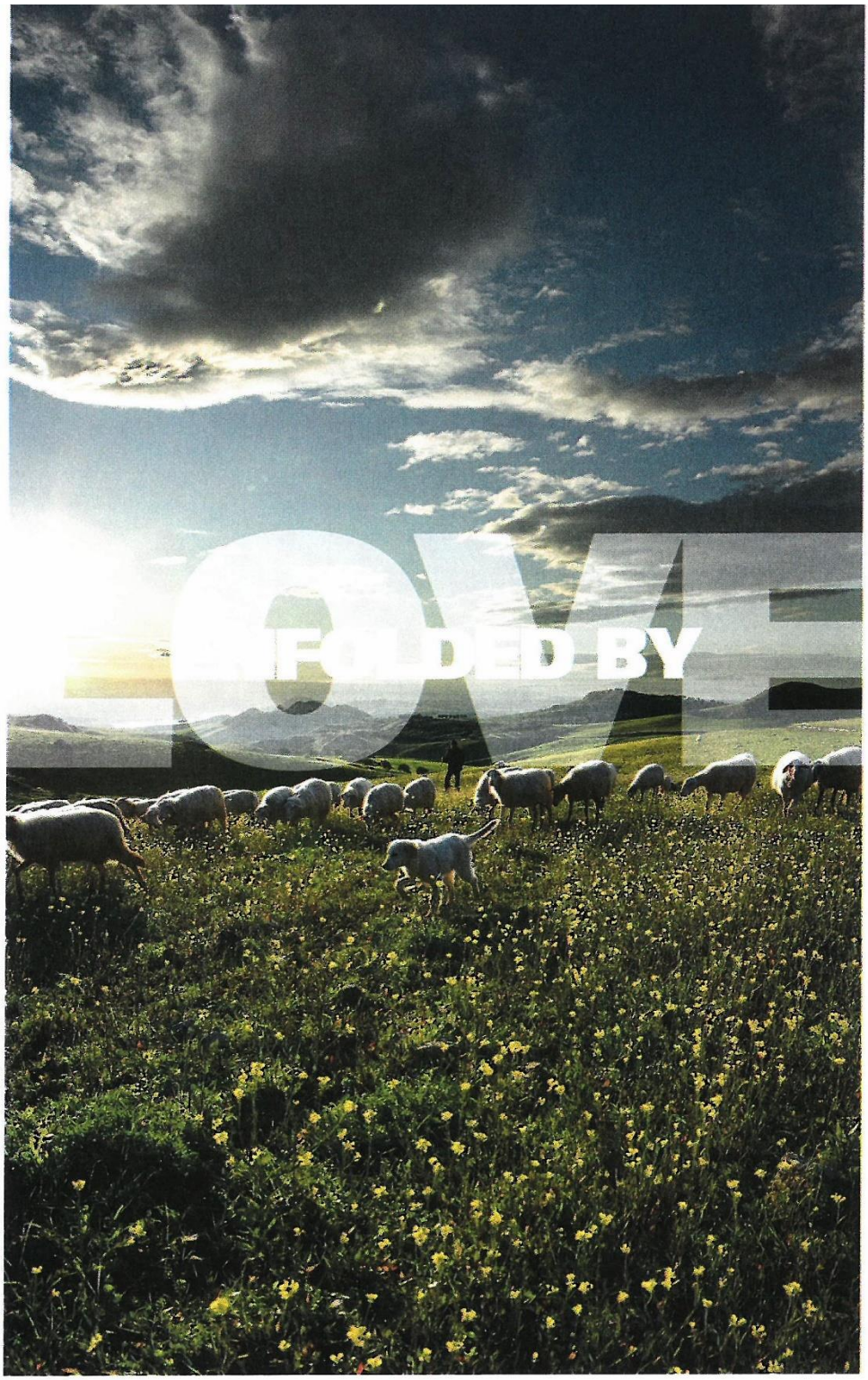
FOLDED BY

Thank you for worshiping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.

For Children: Please feel free to attend services with your children. For the safety of the children, staff and volunteers ERUCC will not be providing childcare during services until further notice. Your children are welcome to bring their own quiet activities, no materials will be provided. Please take ALL personal items with you after the service.

We have removed all items from the pew racks for your safety. Music selections will be provided within this bulletin. If you are visiting and did not stop at the welcome desk in the downstairs lobby please stop by after the service they would love to meet you or, please feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. Many of our visitors ask us about the time of offering. This is a time in our service when we respond to God's gifts of love by offering the gifts of our lives. For many of us, this is when we make a financial gift towards the ministries and programs of our church. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts in sharing God's love. If you are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshiping with us. At this time we are taking offering at the end of the service. Plates will be placed at the doors as you exit the sanctuary, Thank you.

We ask that you please silence your cell phones during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Rest rooms (equipped with changing stations) are located on the first floor of the church building and outside the Community Room and the Nursery.

There is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: www.erucc.org .
Donate online by scanning this code:
Or, download the GivePlus Church application and make your donation via the app.

Thank you.

Ministers - All the People of Evangelical Reformed Church

Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel, Senior Pastor (bkdaniel@erucc.org)
Rev. Fred Wenner, Pastor Emeritus (faw500@msn.com)
Kim Sexton, Associate for Children's Ministry (ksexton@erucc.org)
Alison E. Shafer, Music Director● Tricia Coffey, Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director
Sherry Murray, Nursery● Jaci Clayton, Facilities Mgr.
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EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH
United Church of Christ
- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

April 25, 2021	Fourth Sunday of Easter	10:30 a.m.

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

In this time of worship and throughout our lives, we call on God.
In moments when we search for the power to act justly,
let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.
In situations when our lips long for powerful words to speak,
let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.
At times when we feel lost and need to find the power to follow,
let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.
When it is easier to hate, and we desperately need the power to love,
let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.
God offers salvation, transformation, solace, and refuge.
In it, we obtain the power to act, the power to speak, the power to follow, and the power to love.
In all we do and all we say, let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.
Come, let us worship.

***Opening Prayer**

Loving and living God,
we gather together today, guided by you, our Shepherd.
You protect and care for us; you lead us as we journey through life.
During this time of worship, we ask that our ears are open to hear your word,
our eyes are open to see your light,
our hearts are open to feel your love.
As your sheep, we know love,
and we have heard the commandment to love one another.
May our worship be a testament to your love and our dedication to love one another. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** *My Shepherd Is the Living God* *# 247*

See back of bulletin

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Standing before the religious authorities in Jerusalem, Peter cried out, "the stone rejected by you, the builders, has become the cornerstone." Like those who threw Peter and John in prison and placed law before love, we too confess that we have rejected the stone that is Christ Jesus. In our doubt, we have and turned towards false securities, hopes, and promises.
In our ignorance, we have invested in artificial love and cheap grace.
In our defiance, we have denied our beliefs and ignored your guidance.
We, too, have rejected the stone in these ways and others.
In this silence, we confess our acts of rejection now (*pause*).
Hear our confessions as recognition for wrongs done in the past and hope for transformation to come. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

People of God,
be assured that even though the stone was rejected,
it now sits as the cornerstone,
ever-present, ever-forgiving, ever-lasting.
You are forgiven, stand firm on this foundation,
proclaiming the name of Jesus Christ now and forever. Amen.

Thought For the Day

The Lord's Prayer

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 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, for ever. Amen.

The Scripture

Acts 4:5–12
John 10:11–18
Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

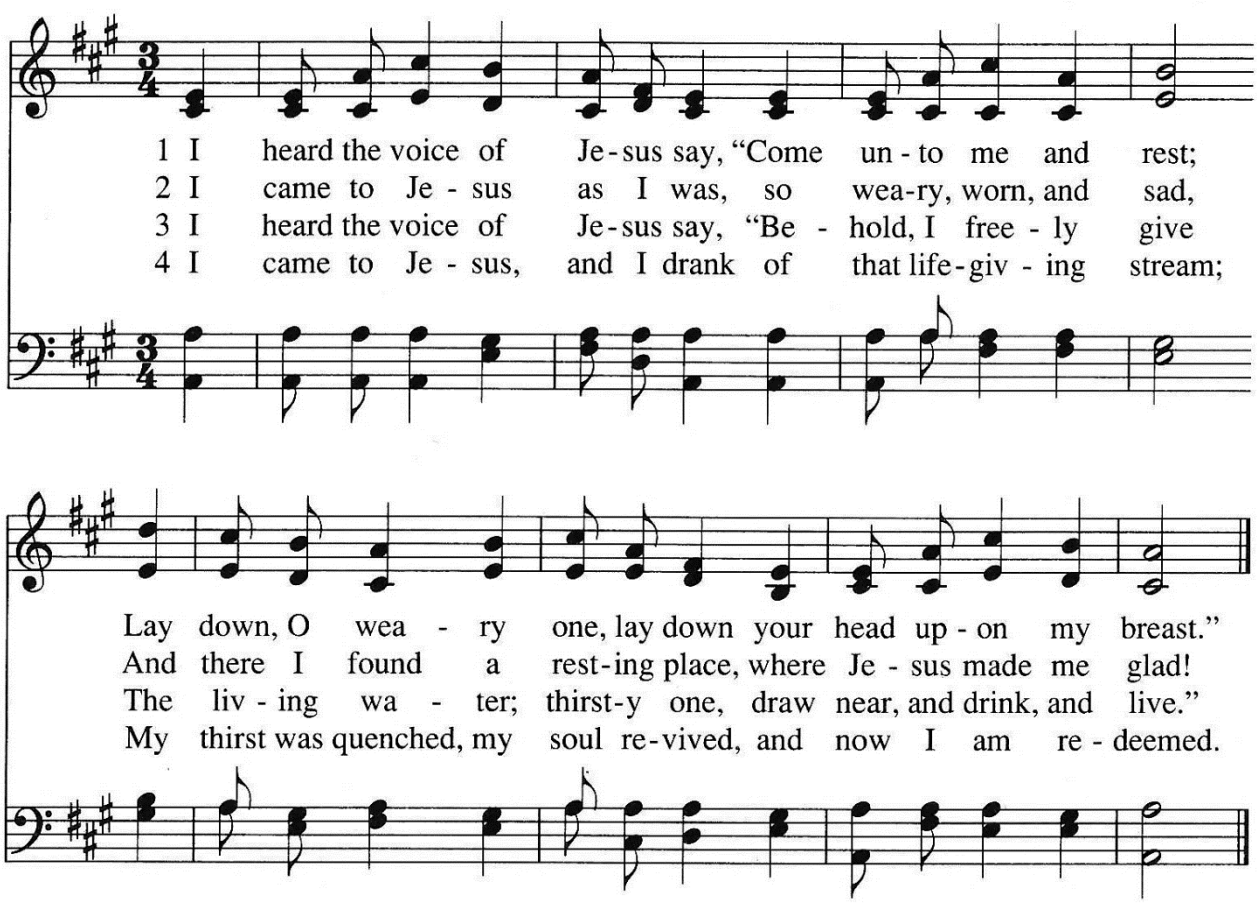
Pastoral Prayer

Sharing our Stories **-- Scott Smiley**

Offering of Tithes, Gifts and Lives to Christ's Service

Anthem *A Scottish Blessing* *- D. Blackwell*
ERUCC Singers

***Closing Hymn** *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* *# 489, stanzas 1,2,5,6*



5 I heard the voice of Je-sus say,
"I am this lost world's Light,
Look un-to me; your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright."

6 I looked to Je-sus, and I found
my guid-ing Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll go
till trav-eling days are done.

*** Benediction**

You have heard it proclaimed; God is love. This love is powerful and transformative. It sacrifices everything, even one's life. It boldly cries out for justice. It beckons us to leave behind jealousy, hatred, and grudges to abide within. It convicts us to act courageously. Go from this place, knowing that the one who is love profoundly loves you. Take this love and share it with family and friends, as well as stranger and foe, gift it to the hurt and sick, the lonely and troubled. Be bold, be humble, be love. **Amen.**

***Postlude**

Every Sunday at 10:30 https://boxcast.tv/channel/bzioh0xyyacgq5fmjnoi
Want to listen to the sermon again? Visit our YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w
You can get to the link on our homepage at www.erucc.org

Worship Notes: Today's liturgy is from Seasons of the Spirit.

The flowers on the altar this morning are in loving memory of family members by Patti Patterson and family.

The **yellow rose bud** on the stand is in honor of those currently serving in the military by Jack Day and Peter Brehm.

Worship Next Week: May 2
Look for worship notes in the Thursday Thoughts and May Trinity Chimes.

TODAY! Join us for a Spiritual Walk, Sunday April 25, 2-3:30 pm, Hood College
We will explore the trees of Hood College using new self-guided tree tour. Many of these trees are not native to this area but are unique and grand specimens nonetheless. We will reflect on all the trees provide for us and what they can teach us. We will meet on the sidewalk where Rosemont Ave turns into Dill Ave at Hood College Drive.

247 My Shepherd Is the Living God

Ps. 23; John 10:11, 27–30 *Composite from Thomas Sternhold, 1549, and Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 25, 2021 John 10:11-18

Enfolded by Love

Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries Sunday / Break the Silence Sunday

Break the Silence Sunday (BTSS) is an opportunity for survivors of sexual assault to share their stories in a safe and supportive environment. By Breaking the Silence about such assaults, survivors are granted courage and hope.

One of the ways that survivors can be supported in telling their stories is through Strings of Strength. The website: https://breakthesilencesunday.org/strings-of-strength/, says:

*"Strings of Strength is a project to provide comfort items to survivors who share their stories with the Break The Silence Sunday team. More than 800 stories have been shared since BTSS began in 2015, and we wanted to find a way to tangibly honor those stories, to help survivors remember that they are believed, that they are strong, and that they are not alone. By creating shawls, scarves, and other items we hope to be able to provide those who share their story with something soft that will remind them of our common strength as survivors of sexual violence.

HOW IT WORKS

1. You (and maybe your group) create items of support like a quilt or prayer shawl.
2. You record the initials of the creator, and the fiber content on each item.
3. You post them to BTSS (see below).
4. We add a nifty little tag with your initials, fiber and care information, and a phrase of love and support (currently it will have the BTSS logo and say something like "your story is heard, believed, and held in love and grace").
5. We distribute them to survivors who share their stories at events like church conference meetings.
6. You enjoy the connection you've made to a survivor who now feels less alone in the world.
7. You create more objects and we repeat this process until rape and sexual violence are no more."

*(https://breakthesilencesunday.org/strings-of-strength)

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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