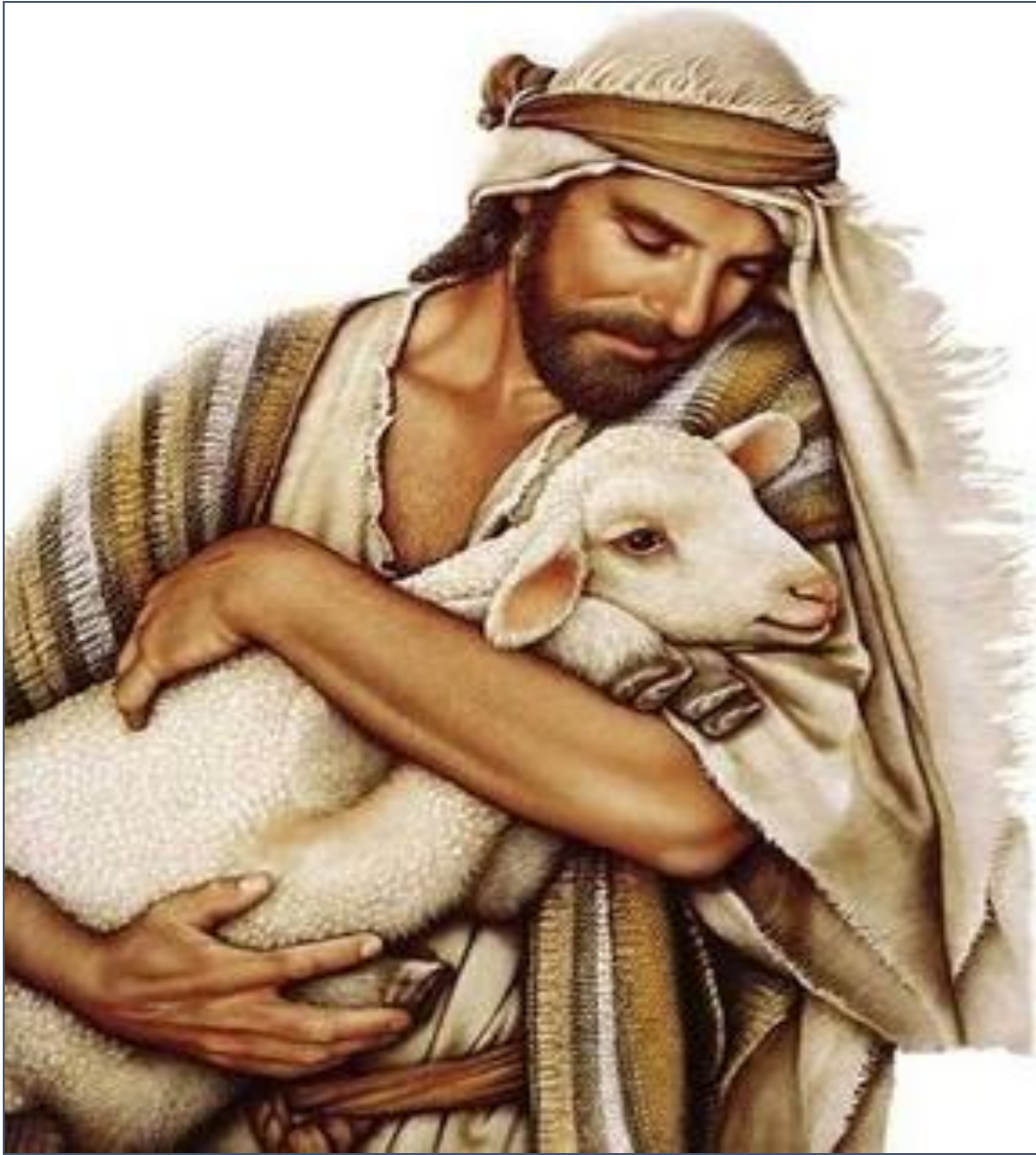


***First Congregational Church
of Georgetown***



The Lord Is My Shepherd

February 23rd, 2025

The Reverend Marie J. Lucca

Robert Knapp, Director of Music

Emily Knapp, Organist

GATHERING MUSIC

The Lord's My Shepherd

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Marie Lucca

CENTERING MUSIC

Song of Simeon

Bell Choir

INTRODUCING OUR THEME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rachel Angerhofer

One: Shepherd us, O God.

All: Open our ears to hear your calling.

One: Shepherd us, O God.

All: Open our eyes to see your care.

One: Shepherd us, O God.

All: Shear our preoccupation with the ways of the world.

One: Shepherd us, O God.

All: Prepare us to follow you. Amen.

***HYMN**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Dorothy Thrupp

William Bradbury

Sav-ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need thy ten-der
We are thine; in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our
Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor; ear - ly let us do thy
care; in thy ples - ant pas - tures feed us,
way; keep thy flock; from sin de - fend us;
will; bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior;
for our use thy folds pre - pare. Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed
seek us when we go a - stray. Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed
with thy love our spir - its fill. Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed
Je - sus, thou hast brought us, thine we are; bless - ed
Je - sus, hear thy chil - dren when we pray; bless - ed
Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still; bless - ed
Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast brought us, thine we are.
Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear thy chil - dren when we pray.
Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURES

John 10: 11-16

Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees when he said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. So when the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock, the hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep. But I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. I have other sheep, too, that are not in this fold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock, with one shepherd."

Matthew 18: 12-14

Jesus said to his disciples, "Suppose a man owns 100 sheep and one of them wanders away. Won't he leave the 99 sheep on the hills so he can go and look for the one that wandered off? What I'm about to tell you is true. If he finds that sheep, he is happier about the one than about the 99 that didn't wander off. It is the same with your Father in heaven. He does not want any of these little ones to be lost.

Psalm 23

One: The Lord is my shepherd.

All: There is nothing I shall want.

One: He makes me lie down in green pastures.

All: He leads me beside still waters.

One: He restores my soul.

All: He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

One: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,

All: For You are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

One: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

All: You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.

One: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

All: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

MESSAGE

The Lord Is My Shepherd

A Modern Take on Psalm 23

One: Blessed is the parole officer

All: for he shall not be wanted.

One: Blessed is the seminary professor

All: who trains the green pastors,

One: and the AA sponsor

All: who leads past distilled waters.

One: Blessed is the therapist

All: who restores my soul,

One: the guidance counselors and case workers

All: who direct us along right paths,

One: And all the folks at the hospice house who guide through the valley
and the funeral director who eases the shadow of death.

All: I will not be afraid, for You are with me, through all of your shepherds.

One: Blessed also is the trail guide

**All: whose staff and compass, energy bars, and ability to find the huts comfort
me.**

One: Blessed are the waitresses in the small diner

All: who cross ethnic boundaries...

One: the barbers, beauticians, and massage therapists

All: who anoint me with oil,

One: and the barista

All: who knows my cup and whose smile runneth over.

One: Blessed is the CNA who will protect my dignity all the days of my life

All: for surely this, too, is no less a part of divine goodness and mercy.

One: And blessed is the local church pastor who opens the sanctuary doors to
everyone saying, "This is God's house and yours – forevermore."

All: Amen.

OFFERING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY

Peace Be With You

Bell Choir

DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God all creat-ures here be - low;
Praise God for all that love has done; Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Spir - it, One. A - men.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of all generations, we rejoice today in the teachings of the Psalms as we strive to be more grateful, hopeful, and generous in our lives. We offer you these gifts knowing that they will be changed and knowing that we will be transformed by your love. Amen.

*HYMN

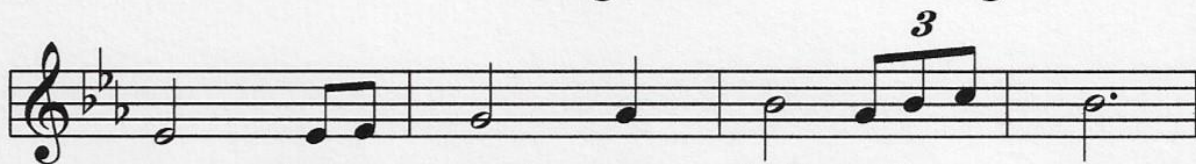
The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Henry W. Baker

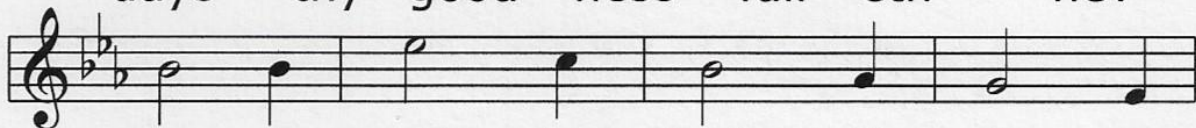
Traditional Irish melody
harm. Charles Stanford



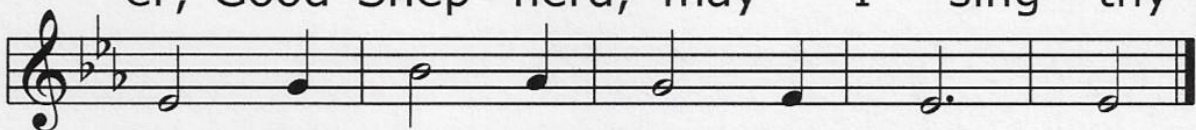
The King of love my shep - herd
Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter
Per - verse and fool - ish oft I
In death's dark vale I fear no
Thou spread'st a ta - ble in my
And so through all the length of



is, whose good - ness fail - eth nev -
flow, my ran - somed soul he lead -
strayed, but yet in love he sought
ill, with thee, dear, Lord, be - side
sight, thy bless - ed grace be - stow -
days thy good - ness fail - eth nev -



er; I noth - ing lack if I am
eth, and where the ver - dant pas - tures
me, and on his shoul - der gen - tly
me; thy rod and staff my com - fort
eth, and O what trans - port of de -
er; Good Shep - herd, may I sing thy



his, and he is mine for - ev - er.
grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
laid, and home re - joic - ing brought me.
still, thy cross be - fore to guide me.
light from thy pure chal - ice flow - eth!
praise with - in thy house for - ev - er.

BLESSING

***SENDING MUSIC**

How Majestic is Your Name

Michael W. Smith

*Anyone wishing to support the church by lighting the steeple
is invited to make a donation.*

MEETINGS & OTHER HAPPENINGS

Tuesday 2/25

6:30PM Bell Choir,

7:30PM Band

Wednesday 2/26

7:00PM Book Club (ZOOM)

Sunday 3/2

9:30AM Brass

10:30AM Worship with Marie Lucca

Monday 3/3

6:30PM Bell Choir

7:30PM Band

Tuesday 3/4

Shrove Tuesday Service

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers The Congregation
Pastor
Director of Music..... Robert Knapp
Organist.....Emily Knapp
Sexton Kimberlee Knapp
Office Administrator Julie Bernier
Moderator Rich Brock
Clerk Toni Cassidy
Finance Robert Knapp
Diaconate Rachel Angerhofer
Property JoAnne Kelly and Tom Johnson
Bookkeeper Rich Brock
Missions Rachel Angerhofer
Collector Robert Knapp
Member-at-Large Alecia Balduf

Church Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Office Phone: (978) 352-8443

Office Email: churchoffice@fccgeorgetownma.org**Website:**

www.fccgeorgetownma.org

WELCOME

If you are a visitor from “near or far” and would like to learn more about our congregation and its ministries, please speak with an usher and/or greeter. You may also sign the visitors card found in the pews and place it in the offering plate. Please indicate whether you would like a call or visit from the pastor.

A COMMUNITY THAT AIMS FOR HOSPITALITY

We are delighted you have come to join us on this Sunday. First Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, which means that wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here. We have large print bulletins, hearing assistance devices, wheelchair and elevator accessibility, and all-gender restrooms. Please let us know if you still have difficulties hearing. While we hope to anticipate needs, please share any ideas you have for ways to expand our accessibility for all.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

We believe that children help complete our worship experience. We encourage children to be an active part of worship; this is where they learn the most about the Christian family—by experiencing it! Encourage your child to sing along, clap, wiggle, offer prayer requests, and join in communion.

LIGHT THE CHURCH FUND

Contributions for lighting the church steeple can be made in memory of loved ones or in honor of someone special. If you would like to contribute or need more information, please contact Robert Knapp at 978-352-7489.

MEMORIAL FUND

This is a wonderful and meaningful way to pay tribute to family or friends who have gone before us. A gift to the Church's Memorial Fund is always timely and names of those we love live on with all of us as we remember them over the years. Gifts can be mailed or placed in the offering, be sure to note who is being honored with this gift.

FLOWER CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would like to contribute flowers or make a monetary donation for the Communion Table for an anniversary, birthday, or special occasion please contact Nancy Aberman at 978-457-5924.