

**United Methodist Church of Merced  
Sunday Worship April 25, 2021**

**WELCOME**

**PASTOR VICTORIA**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HYMN        SHINE JESUS SHINE**

Lord, the light of your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness, shining  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us  
Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be light

Lord, I come to your awesome presence  
From the shadows into your radiance  
By the blood I may enter your brightness  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness  
Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be light

As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory

Mirrored here may our lives tell your story  
Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be light

**OPENING PRAYER**

**REV. VICTORIA SCHLINTZ**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**REV. ELLA LUNA-GARZA**

**AN INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP**

**SONG OF PRAISE**

**I BRING AN OFFERING TO YOU**

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love  
There is no shadow in Your Presence  
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne  
Before the Holy One of heaven

It's only by Your blood  
And it's only through your mercy  
Lord, I come

I bring an offering of worship to my King  
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing  
Jesus, may You receive the honor that You're due  
O Lord, I bring an offering to You  
I bring an offering to You

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### **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Ever-present God who speaks in thunder and earthquakes and in the softest whisper: we long to hear your voice over all the noise of the world this day. In a world so divided and polarized, we need to hear not only the voice of the Shepherd but the cries of other sheep who are being marginalized, forgotten, and abandoned. May the gifts we offer today be our response to hearing the one who speaks in the language of love and compassion. In his holy name, Amen.  
(John 10:11-18)

### **HOMILY AND NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**Rev. Ella Luna-Garza**

#### **John 10:11-18**

10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

10:12 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.

10:13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

10:14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,

10:15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

10:16 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.

10:17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

10:18 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."

### **GESTURES OF PEACE**

## PASTORAL PRAYER

REV. VICTORIA SCHLINTZ

...May we go forth as an Easter People, may we know the Good Shepherd even as we are known. And in the name of Jesus the Christ, we joyfully and confidently lift our voices in the prayer he taught us to pray: **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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

## LESS LIKE ME

Oh, I have days I lose the fight  
Try my best but just don't get it right  
Well I talk a talk that I don't walk  
And miss the moments right before my eyes

Somebody with a hurt that I could have helped  
Somebody with a hand that I could have held  
When I just can't see past myself  
Oh Lord help me be

A little more like mercy' a little more like grace  
A little more like kindness' goodness, love, and faith  
A little more like patience's a little more like peace  
A little more like Jesus, a little less like me

Yeah, there's no denying I have changed  
'Cause I've been saved from who I used to be  
But even at my best' I must confess  
I still need help to see the way You see

Somebody with a hurt that I could have helped  
Somebody with a hand that I could have held  
When I just can't see past myself  
Oh Lord, help me be

A little more like mercy, a little more like grace  
A little more like kindness, goodness, love, and faith  
A little more like patience, a little more like peace  
A little more like Jesus, a little less like me

Oh, I want to feed the beggar on the street  
Love to be your hands and feet

Freely give what I receive  
Lord, help me be  
I want a friendship first above all else  
Love my neighbor as myself  
In the moments no one sees  
Lord, help me be

A little more like mercy, a little more like grace  
A little more like kindness, goodness, love, and faith  
A little more like patience, a little more like peace  
A little more like Jesus, oh, a little less like me  
A little more of living everything I preach  
A little more like Jesus, a little less like me  
Oh, a little less like me

#### **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

Go now with your trust in the good shepherd,  
and let us love, not just in words,  
but in truth and action.  
Believe in the name of Jesus Christ,  
and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

And may God be at your side, even in valleys of death.

May Christ Jesus be the cornerstone of your life.

And may the Holy Spirit abide in you  
. . . and tend you with love and mercy all the days of your life.  
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
. . . **In the name of Christ. Amen.**