

# Banning United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023

## MEDITATIVE THOUGHT

*God of goodness and mercy, follow me all my days!  
Source of grace and compassion, flow from me all my days!*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOMING FRIENDS and NEWCOMERS

## WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

## MINISTRY MOMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Here Jesus's great truth: I am the gate for the sheep:

**P: We recognize this voice. We've heard these words before.**

L: Come in! You belong here! You are safe and cared for here!

**P: We recognize the voice of our shepherd.**

L: Follow and find green pastures and still waters!

**P: We hear his voice.**

L: I come to give life and give it abundantly.

**P: Come one, come all!**

†OPENING HYMN "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit" UMH #334

### OPENING PRAYER

**Risen Savior, reliable Shepherd, We hear Your voice calling us to follow. We remember our ancient brothers and sisters, who gathered in prayer and praise. Enliven us with Your resurrection power, a power that frees us from despair. Enliven us with Your abundant life. May Your living power flow through us in all we are and do. Amen!**

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 23 NRSV

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. <sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; <sup>3</sup>he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

### †HYMN

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" UMH #140

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 2:42-47 NRSV

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE** "We Are Family"

**PRAYERS OF THE PASTOR and PEOPLE**

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.**

**GIVING BACK TO GOD (TITHES AND GIFTS)**

**OFFERTORY**

†**DOXOLOGY** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God of abundant life, Host of our Table, we devote ourselves and these gifts to Your vision of a community that meets the needs of any and all. We give our gifts of money and work, of prayer and praise and presence and purpose to our friends and neighbors. Bless our offering, that it may meet the needs, both small and large, of Your great and generous blessings, Amen!**

†**Closing Hymn** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" UMH #400

†**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**