

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**19 Seminary Street, Barre, Vermont**

*Welcomes You to Worship*



*"I am the Gate"*

**Sunday Worship - April 26, 2026**  
**Year A, Fourth Sunday of Easter**

*Welcome! Join us as we experience our spiritual journey through  
Christian community and by living God's love in word and deed.*

## GATHERING

*Today's hymns are from the purple "Glory to God" hymnal. This service is being recorded for viewing on Facebook and on our website. Please guard your privacy as best you see fit.*

### Gathering on Abenaki Lands and Welcome

#### Prelude

#### Call to Worship (Psalm 121)

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills —  
from where will my help come?

People: **My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.

People: **He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

Leader: The LORD is your keeper;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

People: **The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

Leader: The LORD will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.

People: **The LORD will keep your going out and your  
coming in from this time on and forevermore.  
Let us worship God.**

★Opening Hymn #187 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care. In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us we are yours.
2. We are yours: in love befriend us; be the guardian of our way. Keep your flock: from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.
3. You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be; you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
4. Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will. Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.

**PRAYING for RECONCILIATION and FORGIVENESS**

**Call to Confession**

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

People: O Lord, we come before you, a proud people. We are proud of what we have earned, of how fancy our cars or trucks are, of how large our homes are, and of what gracious Christians we think we are. Now, we pause to come face to face with you. You, who know the truth about us and our lives, see all that we do and say. We cannot hide the truth from you, even though we often try to hide it from ourselves. It is only through your grace and patience with us that we understand and accept the promise of salvation through your son. Our earthly possessions and our foolish attempts to pass ourselves off as caring Christians mean nothing without your grace, guidance and forgiveness. Hear us, we pray, and hear our silent prayers as we confess those shortcomings which we find so difficult to say out loud.

*(Silent confession of individual sins)*

Leader: Amen

### **Assurance of Pardon**

★**Passing of the Peace** - Now is the time we pass the peace saying "Peace be with you," responding with "And also with you." When we pass the peace of Christ, we affirm that the nature of our faith is founded in the love, grace, and peace Christ continually extends to us.

## **LISTENING**

**Prayer for Illumination**    *(in unison)*

Heavenly Father, we come before You today, eager to dive into Your Word. Open our hearts and minds to understand the truths You have for us. Guide our thoughts, and let the Holy

Spirit lead us as we study and grow in our knowledge of You. May this time together strengthen our faith and deepen our relationship with You. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

**Scripture Lessons**     John 10:1-10; I Peter 2:19-25

**Sermon**             "Sheep in All Sorts of Clothing"     Chris Fuhrmeister

**Reflection Music**

## RESPONDING

★ **Hymn #801**             "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"

1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; he makes me down to lie in pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.
2. My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake.
3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill, for thou art with me; and thy rod and staff me comfort still.
4. My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes; my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.
5. Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me, and in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

**Call for the Offering**             *(stewardship reminder)*

*(You may place your offering in the box just behind the last pew of the*

*sanctuary or give online at [fpcbarre.org](http://fpcbarre.org). Click the green "Donate" button on the front page. You may also mail in your offering. Thank you for your generosity!)*

**Prayer of Dedication:**                      *(in unison)*

**As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to pass on the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need of your gifts and presence in their lives. Amen.**

**Announcements, Joys, and Concerns**

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer** *(Finishing with the Lord's Prayer. We invite you to use the words which are closest to your heart.)*

**Our Father/Mother, 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for yours in the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**SENDING**

★ **Closing Hymn No. 720**

**"Jesus Calls Us"**

- 1. Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult of our lifes wild, restless sea; day by day his sweet voice soundeth saying, "Christian, follow me."**

2. Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store, from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."
3. In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."
4. Jesus calls us: by thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thy obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

Thanks to Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE), Christopher Fuhrmeister who is our guest speaker today.

Thanks to Roxanne Casadonte for leading us in worship today.

**Prayers** - Each week we pray for a different person or family in our church. This week please keep the Atwood family - Julie, Charlie, Elise, and Heath - in your prayers. Gracious Lord, we give thanks for them. Hold them in the palm of your hand and let them feel your love. Give them the wisdom and strength to do your will and the faith and courage to face each day.

As part of being the connectional Presbyterian Church, we keep in our prayers other ministries usually within the PNNE. This week our prayers are for the Litchfield Community Church Presbyterian, NH and Commissioned Ruling Elder, Mark Dayton.

**Online Security** - If you change your screen name, please email Josh, [jman.laflower@gmail.com](mailto:jman.laflower@gmail.com) so he can admit you to the service.

*First Presbyterian Church, Barre is part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We are members of the Presbytery of Northern New England.*

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### **UPCOMING BIRTHDAY**

April 25th - Marcus Casadonte  
April 26th - Bruce Donovan

### **RECENT ANNIVERSARY:**

April 12th - Rebecca and Marcus Casadonte

### **TO CONTACT REV. DWIGHT MCCORMICK :**

Phone: 802-261-5074, Email: [fpcbarrepastor@gmail.com](mailto:fpcbarrepastor@gmail.com)

### **TO CONTACT CINDY HOOKER:**

Phone: 802-793-0639, Email: [nonnicch@gmail.com](mailto:nonnicch@gmail.com)



We are a Matthew 25 church in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
This means we have three areas of focus to our ministries:  
**building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism,  
and eradicating systemic poverty.**