



*Dover Congregational
United Church of Christ
May 17, 2020*

*Rev. Keith Stuart, Minister
Martha Vivona, Lay Leader*



Rev. Scott Patterson, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. John Rinehart, Minister of Justice

An Open & Affirming Congregation

Worship & Celebration of Life

Welcome

Worship Theme...

One: The shepherd God provides for all my needs,
It is by grace (or think, "dumb luck!") I feed
Upon the love from people in my life,
My home, my meals, my mostly lack of strife;

The shepherd God protects me when I'm prone
To think I daily go through life alone;
In face of need, before me lies a spread—
Saved from devouring enemies, instead;

The shepherd God pursues me my life long,
And tracks me down to know I still belong
By grace to one who'll never let me go,
And surely - Wow! - such love I'll ne'er outgrow.

-Scott L. Barton

Music of Reflection

*"What Does the Lord Require of You"
Anthony Steward, tenor*

-Jim Strathdee

Liturgy of Guidance...

One: Remind us, Lord, to take time out to appreciate the scenery—

**All: the sights and sounds, the beautiful scents and aromas of this magnificent world
though which we are travelling.**

One: Inspire us to turn out of the fast lane, off the freeways and tollways,

**All: and to appreciate the lovely places and people on the quieter, meandering roads that
still lead to life's destination.**

One: Lead us beside the still waters—

All: the placid lakes and the gentle streams.

One: God, help us to feel your Spirit when the life road gets rough,

**All: and especially when it descends suddenly into the deep shadowy valleys of despair,
depression, or death.**

One: And when the view from the mountaintops of life is so beautiful that it makes our hearts sing or takes our breath away,
All: **we want to recognize that you are the source of this creation, the beginning and the end of our journey, the God of Grace, compassion and love.**

One: So Guide us still, great Jehovah, through the coming week of this trip of a lifetime.
All: **We want your Spirit to be our constant travel companion, directing our paths.**

Hymn

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of our God that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good.
Oh, how your wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye:
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glories known.
The clouds arise and spread their showers by order from your throne.
All life is but a gift from you and ever in your care;
Wherever people gather, you, O God, are present there.

Reading From Our Sacred Tradition

Hebrew Tradition:

Psalm 23

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

Psalm 139

- ¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
²You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.
³You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.
⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.
⁷Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
⁹If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.
¹¹If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,”
¹²even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.
¹³For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.
¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.
¹⁷How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
¹⁸I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.
²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.
²⁴See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Special Music

Anthony Steward, tenor

Sermon

“Our Pursuing God”
Rev. R. Keith Stuart

To Pray...

Pastoral Prayer

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.

To Leave...

Hymn

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, on earth be found.
Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, you are all compassion; pure, unbounded love impart.
Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
Let us all in you inherit, let us find your promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all your live receive;
Suddenly return, and never, never more your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing, love you as your angels love,
Pray and praise for your unfailing, wounded arms outstretched above.

Finish, then, your new creation; pure and spotless may we prove;
Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints, we ever shall be lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Benediction

One: I am so grateful that I do not have to worry about God having any incorrect understandings about me! Thankfully, and best of all, you know the depths of my love for you, and the way I so frequently disappoint you with my human failings. And no! I do not have to try to impress my God, because my God loves me and accept me—warts and all—thanks be to my wonderfully accepting God!

Sermon:	Rev. R. Keith Stuart	Reader:	Joe Healey
Organist:	Jan Jones	Soloist:	Anthony Steward
Media:	Dave MacKeigan		

Live Stream events at Dover

~ The **worship service** will be on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. on the Dover Congregational UCC Facebook page and on the Website on Monday morning.

~ **Replenish**, Rev. Keith's short meditation for the week ahead, will be on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. on Dover Congregational UCC Facebook page and on Dover's website.

~ **A word from our Minister of Justice**, will be on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. On Dover Congregational UCC Facebook page.

~ Weekdays, the office will be open from 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. If you have a care or concern you need to discuss, please communicate by phone (440-871-1050) or email to either the office at (doverucc@doverucc.org) or to Rev. Stuart at (kstuart@doverucc.org).

~ Prayer Requests, please pray for God to be with these individuals, and for them to feel God's presence in the midst of their concerns:

Marie Black, Emily Borocz-Johnson, Susan Coldsnow, Loreen Flesher, Gerrard (friend of Kevin Kurth), Robb & Jennifer Gaskins (friends of Bonnie & Parker Reynolds), Mary Gerdel, Sofia Greer (friend of Jeff & Amanda Hughes), Nanci Keller (Amy Keller's mother-in-law), Jason (David Wakelee's partner), Jeff Matos (friend of Jan Jones), Lois McCreight, Patty Porter (friend of Jane & Larry Coil), Karen Pittak (Lindsey Kaschak Pittak's mother-in-law),

Parker Reynolds, Susan Reynolds (sister of Denece Praeger). Ernie Rickard, Alice Rini, Donna Shiley, & Pat Daily (friends of the Koehlers), Haley Schultz, Helen Sima (neighbor of Kevin Kurth), Dawn Stepic (friend of Georgann Yonkers), Cynthia Stuart, Robin Thomas, Pete Thompson, Linda Wiant (Kurt & Rita Wiant's sister-in-law), Penny Yagich and Debbie Zitello (Ruth Schneider's daughter).