



**Emmanuel Newsletter  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Sunday, April 25, 2021**

Dear Friends,

The fourth Sunday of Easter is Good Shepherd Sunday. In the gospel appointed for this day we read, "Jesus said, I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep." If we were to imagine ourselves as 'shepherds', what would it mean for us today? How do we lay down our lives for others? If we could put a modern twist on 'laying down our lives' and think of it as putting aside our own needs, we would find the modern meaning of being a good shepherd. Listening with intention and compassion is one way of being a good shepherd, one way of following Jesus Christ.

At this time in our church community and indeed in church communities all across the nation, discussions abound on how to be 'church' post-pandemic. In my search for solutions, I found an article written by the Rev. Tim Schenk, rector of St. John's Hingham. The article is titled, "*Hybrid Church – A Way Forward for Church Leaders*." In it Schenk states, "This time of breaking open our traditional assumptions and radically altering 'the way we've always done things' has offered us an opportunity to boldly embrace new models of ministry." Schenk asks us to see this as an opportunity to move from resuscitation to resurrection. "To resuscitate someone, or an institution, is to bring it back to what it once was." Resurrection acknowledges "that after a life-altering experience, things will never be the same."

I believe that we will never be the same as we were before March 2020. What we will be will require all of us to not only participate in 'becoming' a new church family. What does the Gospel teach us about 'becoming' a new church if we follow the vision of Jesus of Nazareth, the Good Shepherd? Let us work towards being good shepherds as we consider, ponder, and pray about what God is calling us towards.

I hope that on **Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.**, we will be able to talk about what it would be like to BE the Good Shepherd that is described in our Gospel.

May God bless you and keep you and inspire you and me to discover God's life-giving spirit.

The Rev. Joyce Caggiano, Priest-in-Residence

Emmanuel, West Roxbury

---



### PRAYER LIST

We ask that you keep in your prayers the following persons: Paul; Mary; Beth; Jenny; Dianna; Joseph; Catherine and Brant; Carla; Michael; Louise; Parker, and Sergio.

(Please email us the names of those who need special prayers---[info@emmanuelwr.org](mailto:info@emmanuelwr.org). Only first names will be used.)

---



**NOTE: LIVE ZOOM SERVICE IS AT 5:00 PM this Saturday, April 2, 2021.**

Join Zoom Meeting Service:

<https://zoom.us/j/94886553740?pwd=T09WRjc3S2dnSXN2SHJWcS8xZWZDUT09>

Meeting ID: 948 8655 3740

Passcode: 772148

**After 7:00 pm on Saturday, view the TAPED service anytime via our website or YouTube site:**

[www.emmanuelwr.org](http://www.emmanuelwr.org)

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEQm5KH2wGB\\_XbZ8h9jldhA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEQm5KH2wGB_XbZ8h9jldhA)

Have a comment? Email us at: [info@emmanuelwr.org](mailto:info@emmanuelwr.org)



Emmanuel Church front yard, Wednesday, April 21, 2021