

**Order of Worship for Sunday, April 25, 2021 His MIGHTY Strength series: Empowered**

Listen at 814-422-6238. Watch online at [www.PennsValleyParish.info](http://www.PennsValleyParish.info)

\* Not included in recorded service due to copyright restrictions on the platforms

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 4 – Trinity Woodward Ladies Aide Meeting, 6:30pm

May 4 – Sprucetown Ad Council/Trustees Meeting 7pm

May 5 – St. James Trustees Meeting 6:30pm, Ad Council 7pm

May 6 – National Day of Prayer – St. James UMC open for prayer 8am-7:30pm and prayer resources will be made available at all churches May 2nd for anyone wishing to pray at work or at home.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: What a joy it is to welcome you this day!

**P: We are grateful and happy to be here.**

L: Christ, the Good Shepherd, invites you to walk with him.

**P: We accept that invitation, confident in his guidance.**

L: Be ready to serve the Lord in all that you do, for his love has been poured upon you.

**P: Open our hearts and spirits this day, Lord, to receive your holy words and to be challenged yet empowered in our service to you.**

OPENING PRAYER

**Thank you, loving God, for bringing us to this time of worship. Refresh us and heal us again. Remind us of the many ways in which you have blessed our lives with your abundant love and your presence. Guide our hearts and our spirits that we may hear your words and our souls may be stirred into active service to your people. In the name of the Good Shepherd, who leads us to life, we pray. AMEN.**

HYMN Close to Thee UMH 407\*

BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Your Actions Speak Louder Than Words

JOYS AND CONCERNS - (The Lord's Prayer "trespass")

SELECTED SCRIPTURE John 10:11-18, Acts 4:5-12

MESSAGE Empowered

HYMN O Spirit of the Living God UMH 539\*

COMMISSION & BLESSING

His *MIGHTY* Strength's Jesus' Pattern Recap:

Step 1: We must empty ourselves of the illusion of control

Step 2: We must align our entire life to the will of the Father

Step 3: We must not try harder in our own strength but yield harder to the Holy Spirit

PASTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Theresa M. Heiser; theiser@susumc.org; 814-883-9510; PO Box 211, Centre Hall 16828

BIBLE STUDY: Listen to My Voice

Read John 10:11-18

The job of shepherds is not common or familiar to many Americans today. How does the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd illuminate who Jesus is? [His voice (teaching) gives his followers guidance. He also provides protection from the dangers that seek out easy targets such as sheep.]

Do you struggle with the idea of needing help? Another way to ask this question is, "How comfortable are you with sharing your inadequacies (not to be confused with false humility)?"

Do people truly need a Savior? A Savior from what? [One way of putting it might be – We are incapable of restoring our relationship with God. We have broken the covenant. For the covenant relationship to be restored requires the stronger partner to enact forgiveness and make a way to help us more fully live into that covenant. We need a Savior from that which keeps us from being faithful covenant partners.]

How is Jesus being our Good Shepherd good news?

How do we let others know that God's voice is a voice worth hearing?

CLOSING PRAYER

*God of compassion and grace, we are thankful for your guidance and protection. We confess there are times when have failed to acknowledge your protection and guidance or to be aware of how you have led us through difficulties. Help us to hear your voice and discern your direction, so that we might follow you and so that others might see God's voice in our way of being. Amen.*