

**Listen to the Shepherd's Voice** (Rev.3/04/15)  
**PAAM Sunday/Good Shepherd Sunday**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**April 26, 2015**

*Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18*

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*Greet one another with "Peace be with you" in the language of your choice.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come all you people, enter the gate of God's sheepfold.

**We hear God calling us by name.**

Jesus will bring all people to be one flock, one shepherd.

**From every nation, every people, tribe and language.**

That they may be one, we proclaim:

**God is still speaking!**

**A GOD IS STILL SPEAKING LITANY**

*For audio/print translations of the phrase "God is still speaking," in other languages used in the UCC please contact Rev. Mitchell Young [mpccucc@yahoo.com](mailto:mpccucc@yahoo.com)*

For those of us who have journeyed here from Pacific Islands,  
The kahu of Hawaii tell us:

**Ke kama'ilio na'e o ke Akua**

In our Samoan churches, we proclaim:

**Fetalai mai le Atua**

From the Marshall Islands of Micronesia, we declare

**Anij Ej konono wot**

Our ancestors from East Asia have taught us

神は今も話しかけている *[Japanese]*

**Kami wa ima mo hanashi kaketeiru**

神仍在說話 *[Chinese]*

**Shun réng zài shuo huà**

하나님은 지금도 말씀하고 계십니다. *[Korean]*

**Hanim un jigeumdo malsseum hako kyesibnida**

Our members from the Philippines proclaim each in their own language:

**Ang Diyos ay nagsasalita pa** *[Tagalog]*

**Ni apo Diyos tayo kit agsarsarita pay** *[Ilocano]*

**Ang Ginoo nagapadayon pa sa pagsulti [Visayan/Cebuano]  
Say Diyos ya katawan ay mansasalita [Pangasinan]  
Inginong Diyos manyalita ya pa [Campampangan]**

We welcome new groups from Southeast Asia as they also proclaim:  
**Allah masih tetap berbicara [Bahasa Indonesia]**

**Chúa vẫn còn nói [Vietnamese]**

**พระเจ้ายังตรัสอยู่ [Thai]**

**Prajao yung trat yuu**

Come! The voice of the Good Shepherd still calls  
**Leading us beside pacific waters to restore our souls.**

Come! The Good Shepherd has prepared lu'au for us  
**And we are enemies no more.**

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
**We are welcome into the fold of the Good Shepherd.**

**WELCOME SONG      You're Welcome Here!**

*Eileen Mitsueda*

*(Lead sheet available in separate file)*

**Chorus:**

**No matter who you are,  
No matter where you are on life's journey,  
You're welcome here!  
Since God has welcomed us,  
We also welcome you with open hearts.  
You're welcome here!**

**Verse:**

Mabuhay! Irasshai! E komo mai! Welcome!  
Bienvenidos! Talofa! Aloha! Welcome! Welcome!

*(Chorus)*

**Bridge:**

You may speak different words or cherish different thoughts.  
One thing I know: this is where you belong.

*(Chorus)*

**Verse:**

You're welcome here! You're welcome here!

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

O God, ke Kahu Hipa maika'i [Good Shepherd],  
you have journeyed with us

even as our ancestors have traveled across the continents and oceans of this world.  
You placed us on lush islands;  
you have made us lie down in green pastures.

On this PAAM Sunday, we give you thanks  
and pray for the Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries  
of our United Church of Christ:  
for 41 continuous years as a movement  
to seek justice, forge a stronger identity,  
and organize the voices of the Pacific Islander and Asian American churches.  
Give all our churches courage and the grace to hear these voices and stories,  
make new connections, and build new relationships.

Help us and teach us to practice right relationship  
based on respect, sovereignty, self-determination and religious freedom  
of all indigenous peoples within our church and global community.  
We pray for the land and the people,  
for healing and hope, and true reconciliation—ho‘okuikahi—which is still to come.  
Help us to welcome everyone to your table  
So that goodness and mercy might follow us all the days of our lives.

Life-sustaining God, we pray for all who suffer in body and spirit.  
Walk with them through each dark valley.  
Feed them with mercy; anoint them with healing.

We offer all our prayers to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God, our guiding shepherd,  
we have wandered through strange paths of our world.  
We, like sheep, have gone astray.  
We have trusted other voices  
and turned away from your truth.  
In fear, we have taken your rod and your staff  
and beaten down other nations.  
We have selfishly laid claim to green pastures  
that really belong to you.  
We have usurped your role as gatekeeper  
and not welcomed our neighbors.  
Forgive us we pray and restore us all to your fold.**

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God hears our prayers, both spoken  
and those we are too ashamed to pass through our lips.  
God stands ready to embrace all who seek forgiveness.  
Continue to listen and respond to the voice of the Good Shepherd  
calling you back to restoration.

With apology comes redress.  
Since God has forgiven you,  
you are empowered make amends with all God's children.

### **CALL TO OFFERING**

With God as our Shepherd, we will not be in need.  
Our cups already overflow with God's blessing.  
Let us share in the care of all God's children.  
Let us love, not simply in word or speech, but also in truth and action,  
as we give from our hands and our hearts.

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Loving Shepherd, you have laid down life itself  
to show your love for all people.  
May our gifts of time, talent and treasure  
bring comfort to those who walk through dark valleys  
and bring wholeness and peace to those not of this fold.  
As we have gathered our gifts,  
gather us also as one flock in the care of one shepherd,  
Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

Fear no evil for God, our Shepherd journeys with us.  
Love one another as Christ abides in you.  
Be filled with the Holy Spirit as witness to divine love.  
*[Additional benediction may be added in the language of your choice.]*

### **POSSIBLE/SUGGESTED MUSIC SELECTIONS**

Iesu No Ke Kahuhipa TNCH 252  
My Shepherd Is the Living God TNCH 247  
God Is My Shepherd TNCH 479  
Praise to God TNCH 5  
I'll Shout the Name of Christ Who Lives TNCH 234  
Golden Breaks the Dawn TNCH 470  
Enter the Realm of God TNCH 615  
When I Was Baptized Sing! 53  
Call to Prayer Sing! 61  
Lei Mekia Sing! 64

### **Resources for song "You're Welcome Here!"**

Hear the song: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBSeEjhRC\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBSeEjhRC_U) (Eileen Mitsueda)

Hear the song with Hawaiian lyrics:



You're Welcome  
Here.Hawaiian.mp3 (Kenneth Makuakane)

Hula tutorial found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOcEBXcsSgq> (Randy Chang/Angie Chuman)

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PAAM FOR YOUR WORSHIP MATERIALS:**

Pacific Islander & Asian American Ministries (PAAM) was organized in 1974 at a gathering in San Francisco, California, of representatives from different regions throughout the United States. The vision was to unite and move forward at the national, regional, and local levels as Pacific Islanders & Asian Americans in the United Church of Christ, sharing our unique gifts with one another.

PAAM was voted into existence at the 10th General Synod, in 1975, as a recognized Special Interest Group within the UCC. The 17th General Synod adopted the pronouncement, "A United Church of Christ ministry with Pacific Islanders & Asian Americans" calling to establish an implementation committee to make requests about the ministries of the PAAM churches. The 18th General Synod passed a resolution designating the last Sunday of April as PAAM Sunday when all UCC churches recognize and celebrate the gifts and contribution of Pacific Islanders & Asian Americans in the life of the UCC.

PAAM has initiated, sponsored, supported and participated in many activities at all levels of the conference, worked for greater PAAM representation on all levels of the conference boards, committees, and staff.

PAAM continues to address institutional racism within the church and society, is concerned with issues of human rights and justice, and helps to support and strengthen clergy and lay leadership at the local level.

#### **RED ENVELOPES FOR GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY (YEAR OF THE SHEEP)**

*As another timely worship idea, go to your local Chinese or Vietnamese market or department store and buy small red envelopes with images of sheep (available now in this Year of the Sheep/Goat). The red color of the envelope symbolizes good luck and is supposed to ward off evil spirits. They are traditionally used to give money as gifts to children or special guests at New Year, birthdays, weddings, funerals and other special events.*

*Distribute them to your church members (ahead of time or in the Sunday bulletin). Use them as special offering envelopes in honor of PAAM Sunday or in whichever way you wish to encourage sharing God's love in the Year of Sheep.*

## Additional information on Iesu No Ke Kahuhipa verse 1 lyrics

An English translation:

**Jesus is the shepherd, a good shepherd  
We are the flock (ohana of God),  
listening and following  
Love, love, lead and care for us  
Love, love, lead and care for us.**

*kahu* (guardian, keeper). Also an informal title often used for pastors in Hawaii.

*hipa* (sheep)

*maika 'i* (good). Hula teachers often use this word to tell their students "Good job!"

*ohana* (family)

*aloha* (love). Also used as greeting in Hawaii.

*hanai* (raise, care, feed). Also used to describe adoptive and foster relationships.

**Listen to the Shepherd's Voice: Liturgical Resources for PAAM Sunday, Good Shepherd's Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Easter**, was written by the Rev. Mitchell Young, pastor of Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church, UCC in Montebello, CA. See how God is still speaking in Montebello at [www.montebelloucc.org](http://www.montebelloucc.org)



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