

# Edgecomb Community Church

United Church of Christ

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*"I am the gate" - Jesus*

**Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 3, 2020**

Communion Sunday

**Scripture:** John 10:1-10

**Sermon:** *"I am the gate"*

**John 10:1-10**

**The Good Shepherd and His Sheep**

10 "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. 2The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." 6Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. 7So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

On Sunday, May 3, often called Good Shepherd Sunday, we'll begin our worship together at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom. During our service we'll share Holy Communion together online.

Before the time of the service, please prepare a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread to share and a cup or small cups of juice -- perhaps grape or cranberry. Set these elements in the living room or kitchen where you experience worship online with our faith community. You might want to place them on a cloth or fabric that reminds you of a special time or person. You might also add a candle to light or place a flower or the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup.

I'll send you soon the Zoom link to our worship service along with Sunday's bulletin. I look forward to worshipping and sharing communion with you on Sunday!

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*"Who We Really Are: In community we work out our connectedness to God, to one another, and to ourselves. It is in community where we find out who we really are. It is life with another that shows my impatience and life with another that demonstrates my possessiveness and life with another that gives notice to my nagging devotion to the self. Life with someone else, in other words, doesn't show me nearly as much about his or her shortcomings as it does about my own.... In human relationships I learn that theory is no substitute for love. It is easy to talk about the love of God; it is another thing to practice it."*

Sr. Joan Chittister, 21st century

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There are so many interesting documentaries on Youtube. Several in particular I think you will find interesting are those created by Mary Beard, a Professor of classics and Ancient Roman Scholar. The YouTube links to the documentaries are below. Each program describes the political and cultural powers of the Roman Empire experienced during the early Christian era.

**Dame Winifred Mary Beard**, DBE, FSA, FBA is an English scholar of Ancient Roman civilization. *The New Yorker* characterizes her as "learned but accessible". Beard is Professor of Classics at the University of Cambridge, a fellow of Newnham College, and Royal Academy of Arts Professor of Ancient Literature Beard was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the 2013 New Year Honors and a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the 2018 Birthday Honors for services to the study of classical civilizations. Source: [Wikipedia](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rggk\\_H3jEgw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rggk_H3jEgw)

Meet the Romans with Mary Beard 1/3 - HD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JFw8M4PBUI>

Meet the Romans with Mary Beard 2/3 - HD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UvG0LDeYBA>

Meet the Romans with Mary Beard 3/3 - HD

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*"One ought never to turn one's back on a threatened danger and try to run away from it. If you do that, you will double the danger. But if you meet it promptly and without flinching you will reduce the danger by half. Never run away from anything. Never!"*

-Winston Churchill, 20th century