

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The writer of both the epistles of John and the Gospel of John are believed to be the same author. The Gospel writer John used many “signs” and symbols to elaborate his theology. Through out his writings John focus’ on Belief that Jesus Christ was/IS the true Son of God, and the emphasis on the developing Community known as the Way, which later developed and became known as the Christian Community called the Church which is recorded in the Book of Acts.

The metaphor of the Shepherd and his sheep brings home to the reader the importance of the dedicated love God has as the shepherd for His people. However, the inclusion of the hired man is an accusation of the Jewish leadership failing to care for the Jewish people. John has no fear to indict the leaders for their crucifixion of Jesus.

In addition, John refers to the Gentiles:

“I have other sheep\* that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

For John, all are one, we are “the other sheep”” Earlier in his Gospel, John speaks of the “oneness” of God and all Creation.

As I write this, I am realizing today [Thursday] is Earth Day. Along with Pope Francis “Laudato Si” we must be unlike the hired man. Rather we are the ones who must dedicate our Care for Earth. As the Native American Hopi Elders proclaim, “we are the ones we have been waiting for”. May we not disappoint!