
 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Call to Worship

One: The Shepherd calls us by name and leads us to abundant life.

All: We hear the voice of our Lord and shepherd and hasten to follow.

One: The Shepherd gathers us, pours out grace, and welcomes into the presence of the Lord.

All: We hear God's call and praise God's holy name.

Hymn #239 *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!*

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!

To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord of life is risen today! Death's mighty stone is rolled away.

Let all the earth rejoice and say: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life which cannot die,

and sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord

the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

Loving Shepherd, we admit we wander and are prone to go astray. You call us to follow and we hear your voice, and yet we choose to heed other voices— voices that promise status and comfort and a carefree life. But such promises are empty, and the life they lead to does not satisfy. Call to us again, Good Shepherd. Summon us to right paths in the pursuit of justice in your name that seeks the well-being of all. Lead us to the table you prepare for us — where rivals share both bread and blessings and discover there is enough for all. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, believe and live the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination**Old Testament Reading:** Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

New Testament Reading: John 10:1-10

1 "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.

2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

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

Homily “The Voice”

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair

Affirmation of Faith *From A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God.
 Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
 we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
 whom alone we worship and serve.
 With believers in every time and place,
 we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
 can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

Anthem *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

arr. Richard Waters

Marilyn Wilkins, soprano

I am weak but Thou art strong, Jesus, keep me from all wrong.
 I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, dear Lord, close to Thee.
 Just a closer walk with Thee, grant it Jesus is my plea,
 Daily walking close to Thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
 Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
 Who with me my burden shares? None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.
 Just a closer walk with Thee, grant it Jesus is my plea,
 Daily walking close to Thee, let it be, dear Lord, Let it be.
 Daily walking close to Thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude *Toccata in B Flat Major*

Michael Burkhardt

Remember in your thoughts and prayers:

Health concerns: Louis McCaleb; Jimmy Gilchrest; Luis Alvarez; Donna Morrison; Bill McPhail; Jane Christopher; Dave Askine; Doug Cisler (Brian Davis' brother-in-law); all those working in public as businesses reopen.