

April 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Kelly Latimore , Good Shepherd, 2019

We are filled with joy at your presence and hope you experience God's Spirit as you worship and meet with those around you. If you would like more information about RPC, please talk with any Session member or the Pastor.

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Bold Letters -- Indicate congregational response

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever

The Lamb of God will be our shepherd;

he will guide us to the water of life.

Gathering Hymn

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

#81

1 Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God.

**God, whose word cannot be broken,
formed thee for a blest abode.**

**On the rock of ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?**

**With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.**

2 Round each habitation hovering,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering,
showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner
light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna
which God gives them when they pray.

3 See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters
and all fear of want remove.

**Who can faint while such a river
ever flows, their thirst to assuage?
Grace, so like the Lord the giver,
never fails from age to age.**

Opening Prayer

Almighty God,
you sent Jesus, our good shepherd,
to gather us together.
May we not wander from his flock,
but follow wherever he leads us,
listening for his voice and staying near him,
until we are safely in your fold,
to live with you forever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Call to Confession

The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God,
in raising Jesus from the grave,
you shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to death.
We overlook the poor and the hungry,
and pass by those who mourn;
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed,
and indifferent to calls for peace;
we despise the weak,
and abuse the earth you made.**

**Forgive us, God of mercy.
Help us to trust your power
to change our lives and make us new,
that we may know the joy of life abundant
given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.**

Silence is Kept for personal confession

Assurance of Pardon

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all the saints.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Amen.

Response in Praise

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

#591

Refrain:

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

THE WORD

A Time with the Children

Psalm 23

Lay Leader: Anne Baur

- 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.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 10:11-18

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away — and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Out to Pasture

Unity Hymn

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

#187

**1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us;
for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us: we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us: we are yours.**

**2 We are yours: in love befriend us;
be the guardian of our way.
Keep your flock: from sin defend us;
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray.**

**3 You have promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.**

**4 Early let us seek your favor;
early let us do your will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us; love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us; love us still.**

Together, We Confess Our Faith

The Apostle's Creed (Traditional)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in
Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead,
and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the
dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the
Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the
dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of
saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life
everlasting.
Amen.**

RESPONDING

Invitation to Present Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Doxology *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

#606

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God,
we praise you that your glory has dawned on us,
and brought us into this Day of Resurrection.
We rejoice that the grave could not hold your Son,
and that he has conquered death,

risen to rule over all powers of this earth.
We praise you that he summons us into new life,
to follow him with joy and gladness.
By your Spirit,
lift us from doubt and despair,
and set our feet in Christ's holy way,
that our lives may be signs of his life,
and all we have may show forth his love.
Praise, glory, and thanksgiving to you,
our God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

**Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the
power and the glory, forever.**

Amen.

SENDING

Opportunities for Service and Fellowship

Sending Hymn

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

#353

**1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

Refrain:

**On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.**

**2 When darkness seems to hide his face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. (*Refrain*)**

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay. (*Refrain*)

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne. (*Refrain*)

Blessing and Charge

May the steadfast love of the Lord be yours,
this day and forever. Alleluia!

Christ is risen! Do not be afraid.
Go and tell this good news to all.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

Response **Be Still and Know That I Am God**

#414

Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.

Postlude