



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

April 21, 2024

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

MISSION STATEMENT

First Presbyterian Church of Easton strives to be a vital and energetic congregation by increasing our devotion to God, our fellowship with one another, and our outreach to all, so that we may be a witness to Jesus Christ in our community and world.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

March

Michael Helman
The Handbell Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 23 (King James Version)

Read in unison:

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.
He leadeth me beside the still waters; he restoreth my soul.
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.
For thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.
Come, let us worship God.**

*HYMN 483 (V.1-4)

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we sing our praises to you who reigns, to you whose watchful eyes never sleep, to you who gently leads us. But before our songs drift off with the gentle spring breeze, we confess that at times we wonder just who reigns – who really holds the power. We ponder who is really watching us in the dead of night.

And just where are we being led and to what end? At times our days are clouded over with fear, with uncertainty, with distrust. Lord, we pray that your Spirit be ever present to assure us that green pastures, full cups, goodness and mercy shall be at days end our just rewards. In Jesus' name we pray.

Silent prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, despite the uncertainties of life and the fickleness of our faith, be confident that Jesus is forever the good shepherd who sacrificed all so that we might be without blemish in God's sight. Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A TIME FOR YOUTHFUL PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ezekiel 34:1-6, 11-16

John 10:11-18

SERMON

The Lord is My Shepherd... Really??

Rev. Larry Van Hise

ANTHEM

The Twenty-Third Psalm

text: Scottish Psalter
music: traditional English melody
arr. Jay Althouse
The Chancel Choir
Jim Middendorf, soloist

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.

He makes me down to lie.

In pastures green;

He leadeth me, the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness e'en for His own name's sake.
Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill,
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod and staff me comfort still.
My table Thou hast furnished in presence of my foes.
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.
Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me,
And in God's house for evermore my dwelling place shall be,
And in God's house for evermore my dwelling place shall be.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Humbled by God's generosity, let us offer our gifts to God and God's ministries through Christ's church.

*Please leave your offering in the boxes at the front and rear of the sanctuary
or make your gifts online or via mail.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, our offering seems all too small in relationship to the blessings from your heart and the grace that is provided to us through the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Yet we make these offerings in your name and dedicate them toward furthering your Kingdom here on earth. Amen.

*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 387 (V.1-3)

Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want (Hymn 170)

Callahan

Worship Leaders

Rev. Larry Van Hise

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Handbell Choir

The Chancel Choir

Linda Martin, Liturgist

Ruthann Arras and Linda Martin, Coffee Hour Hosts

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed

* Music reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE. All rights reserved.