



# First Presbyterian

## CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

April 30, 2023

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (Hymn 171)

arr. Wood

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

### WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Our Good Shepherd calls.

**He knows us each by our name.**

Our Good Shepherd leads.

**We are here to listen and to follow.**

Our Good Shepherd protects and provides.

**We give thanks and praise for our Good Shepherd.**

\*HYMN 325 (V.1-5)

Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers

Spirit divine, attend our prayers,  
And make this house Your home.  
Descend with all Your gracious powers.  
O come, great Spirit, come!

Come as the light; to us reveal  
Our emptiness and woe.  
And lead us in those paths of life  
Where all the righteous go.

Come as the fire and purge our hearts  
Like sacrificial flame;  
Let our whole soul an offering be  
To our Redeemer's name.

Come as the dove and spread Your wings,  
The wings of peaceful love.  
And let the church on earth become  
Blest as the church above.

Spirit divine, attend our prayers.  
Make a lost world Your home.  
Descend with all Your gracious powers.  
O come, great Spirit, come!

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess all that distracts and distorts God's truth, so we can know grace and forgiveness through Christ.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Savior God, you beckon us, but we do not heed your call. You gather us, but we wander away losing ourselves in false and superficial comforts. You speak truth, but we fail to hear and respond. Good Shepherd, do not give up on us. Redeem us. Restore us. Resurrect us for life in Christ.**

*Silent prayer*

**Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Even when we walk through the darkest valley, God is with us. God does not abandon us. Know that you are forgiven and receive Christ's peace.

**Alleluia. 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

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Savior God, we are in awe of you and the way you guide us to the greater good. You've gifted us with the Holy Spirit as our advocate and guide. Open us to the Spirit's wisdom and truth. Open our ears, minds, and hearts to your Word read and proclaimed today. May we know your truth and respond in faith. Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 23

John 10:1-10

SERMON

Not Just Any Sheep

Rev. Rhonda Kruse

ANTHEM

The Twenty-Third Psalm

Traditional English melody  
arr. Jay Althouse

The Lord is my shepherd, I'll not want.  
He makes me down to lie down in green pastures;  
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 has furnished in presence of my foes.  
Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me.  
And in God's house for evermore my dwelling place shall be.

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

#### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Our God provides for us as a shepherd provides for his sheep. Let us return a portion of all we have been given in gratitude for our God's generosity.

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

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Risen and redeeming God, you have given us more than we could ever give you in return. You meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as tokens of our gratitude and bless Christ's ministry with these offerings. 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 276 (V.1-3)

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.  
Thou changest not; Thy compassions they fail not.  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.  
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.  
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (Hymn 171)

arr. Haan

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### Worship Leaders

Rev. Rhonda Kruse, Guest Preacher  
Gloria Snyder, Organist  
Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director  
The Chancel Choir  
Noralee Manzek, Liturgist

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

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## Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
    he leads me beside still waters;  
    he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
    for his name's sake.  
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.  
You prepare a table before me  
    in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
    my cup overflows.  
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.

## John 10:1-10

'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. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.