



# First Presbyterian

## CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God  
May 8, 2022  
The Fourth Sunday of Easter

### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need (Hymn 172)

Wood

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come! Let us worship and praise God.

**The Lord is our shepherd, our guardian and our guide.**

Celebrate the many ways in which God cares for our lives.

**Green pastures and still waters call to us and comfort us.**

Even when it seems that the world is filled with suffering and injustices out of our control – God surrounds us with God's love and bounty.

**Even though difficulties happen in our lives, still God is with us.**

Surely God's mercy accompanies us on our journey.

**And we will dwell in God's house forever. Amen.**

\*HYMN 473, V. 1-5

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies,  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon, and stars of light,  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye,  
For the heart and mind's delight,  
For the mystic harmony  
Linking sense to sound and sight,  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above,  
For all gentle thoughts and mild,  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For Thy church that evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore  
Her pure sacrifice of love,  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

#### SCRIPTURE READING

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.

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Anger, war, division, and violence blare at us from the headlines. The shouts of hatred and hurt harden our hearts, merciful God. We often turn away. When we hear the words of the Psalmist singing about green pastures, still waters, our souls long for this place of peace. We think that it can be found outside ourselves. Remind us again of the peace and hope that your love offers us from within. We know that we will have struggles and hard times, but help us, Lord, to place our lives in your care. Lead us to trust in your comfort and guidance. Guide us to share your care with those in need – forgive us for hoarding your peace and goodness. Help us preserve those places on our planet which are reflections of your goodness. Teach us to be and support the people of this world who are caregivers and peacemakers. Place us on the right path, once again. For we ask this in Jesus' name.**

*Silent prayer*

**Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Do not fear! You can place your trust in God, for God will lead you, comfort you, protect you. You are not alone. God is with you and will lift you up. Rejoice, for you are loved and forgiven by God.

\*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**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:22-27

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

\*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!

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*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

Like a mother hen brooding over her young, like a mama bear protecting her cubs, or an eagle stirring up the nest to teach the young to fly, God is mother of us all and gives us earthly mothers to bear, nurture, teach and protect. So to all who are mothers in flesh and spirit,

**we honor you.**

With those who are pregnant, however anticipated, expected, or surprising,

**we support the flourishing of new life.**

With those who gave birth this year,

**we celebrate with you.**

With those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains and spit up,

**we appreciate you.**

With those who lost a child this year,

**we mourn with you.**

With those who experienced loss this year, through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or children leaving home,

**we ache with you.**

With those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, disappointments and tears,

**we walk with you.**

With those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms,

**we thank you.**

With those who have warm and close relationships with your children,

**we rejoice with you.**

With those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children,

**we sit with you.**

With those who lost their mothers this year,

**we grieve with you.**

With those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother,

**we minister to your pain.**

With those who miss their mothers,

**we sympathize with you.**

To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood,

**we are better for having you in our midst.**

This Mother's Day,

**we salute you.**

Forgive us when we fail to support you or say foolish things. We don't mean to make your job harder than it is. Mothering is not for the faint of heart, and your love has revealed God's love for us in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. For this we are grateful.

**Thanks be to God!**

## 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 555, V. 1-3

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God  
With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In whom this world rejoices;  
Who, from our mother's arms,  
Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God,  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in God's grace,  
And guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God,  
Who reigns in highest heaven,  
To Father and to Son  
And Spirit now be given.  
The one eternal God,  
Whom heaven and earth adore,  
The God who was, and is,  
And shall be evermore.

## BENEDICTION

God of all care and compassion, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep. Send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with knowledge and understanding; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Go forth in peace and hope this day, for God is your guardian and guide. Bring news of God's love and care to all whom you meet. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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

Callahan

~\*~\*~

Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

Julie DeMotte, Liturgist

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

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A Litany for Mother's Day, used as the Prayers of the People, by Teresa Lockhart Stricklen, based on a blog post, "An Open Letter to Pastors: A Non-Mom Speaks Out about Mother's Day," by Amy Young, on her blog The Messy Middle Where Grace and Truth Reside, May 5, 2012, accessed at

<http://messymiddle.com/2012/05/10/an-open-letter-to-pastors-a-non-mom-speaks-about-mothers-day/>

**John 10:22-27**

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me."