

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Heavenly Father, I look for your guidance and listen for your voice to lead me through death's dark valley and bring me to your holy and glorious presence in joyous victory. Lord, thank you for enabling me to be still in your presence. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

“Preludes for Harp 1 and 2”

Marcel Grandjany, 1891-1975

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “Psalm 103”

arr. John Lloyd, b. 1938

Bless the Lord O my soul;

And all that is within me bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord O my soul; and forget not all God's benefits.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

People: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

Leader: He leads me in the right paths for his name's sake.

People: 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.

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

People: 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. Amen.

***Hymn**

“Shepherd Me, O God”

#473

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Good Shepherd, you know us by our name and our identity is not hidden from you. Gather us to yourself as a shepherd gathers the sheep, that we might know your Name.

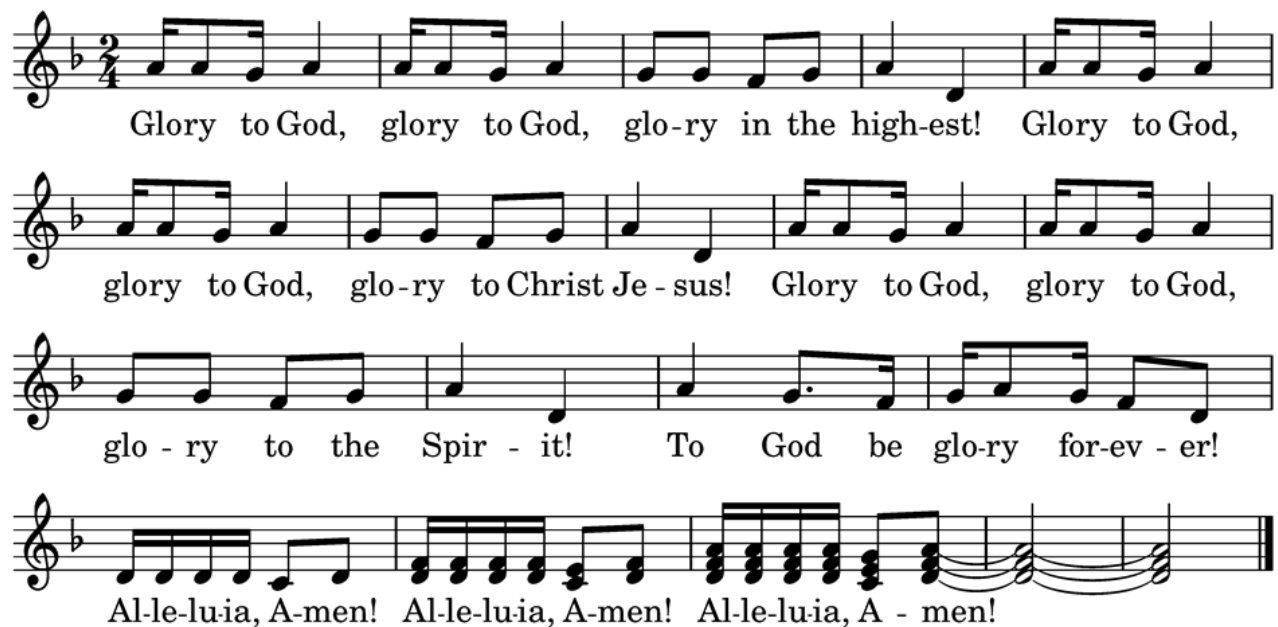
Shepherd God, forgive us for going astray, again and again and again. You seek us out, always looking for us no matter where we are and no matter what we have done. Sometimes we take you for granted and forget to say thank you.” Other times we are fully embraced by your love and don’t realize it could possibly be true. Forgive us, O God. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

*Assurance of Pardon

*Response Hymn

“Glory to God”

#585



Glory to God, glory to God, glo-ry in the high-est! Glory to God,
glory to God, glo-ry to Christ Je - sus! Glory to God, glory to God,
glo - ry to the Spir - it! To God be glo-ry for-ev - er!
Al-le-lu-ia, A-men! Al-le-lu-ia, A-men! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men!

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading

John 10:11-18

Choir Anthem “The Lord’s My Shepherd” arr. John Randall Dennis, 2023

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, even for his own name’s sake.
Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale, yet will I fear no 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 forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

Second Scripture Reading

1 John 3:16-24

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“I Want To Know What Love Is”

Pastor Steve Watters

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living 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.

***Hymn**

“God is Calling through the Whisper”

#410

Prayers of the People and 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.

Invitation to Offering

***Response** “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks” (refrain) #240

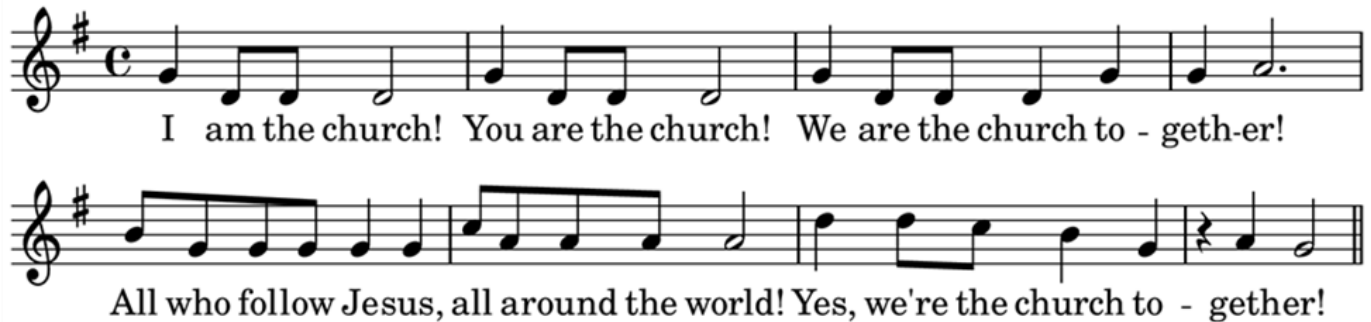
*Prayer of Dedication

The Sending of God’s People

***Closing Hymn** “God Be with You Till We Meet Again” #542

*Charge and Blessing

***Congregational Response** “We Are the Church”



I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!

All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - geth-er!

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***Postlude** “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” arr. Anna Laura Page

Pastors: Steven A. Watters

Liturgist: David Parrott

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Harp Soloist: James Predovich

Flute Soloist: Becky Brown

Our liturgist, David, grew up and went to school throughout the state of Iowa. He moved to London, Ohio in the summer of 2020 with his wife, Stephanie, after she graduated with her PhD in chemistry from Iowa State University.

They have been married 3 years, and can often be found gardening, riding their tandem bicycle on the trails surrounding London, and love to spend time with their furry children (Minnie, a 2 year old Staffordshire Terrier, and Charlie, a 10 year old Mini Rex rabbit).

If you happen to find yourself at the Madison Health hospital in London, you might see David, as he recently started working there as a phlebotomist and lab technologist.

A Gift From God

By John P. Read

Love can't be described.
It has no shape, it has no form.
Love is not an object.
Love does not conform.

Love enters our lives
The moment we are born.
From the cradle to the grave,
Love's in everyone.

Love burns like a candle
That sometimes flickers but never dies.
Love may be invisible,
Although it's right before your eyes,

Love can leave you empty,
Love can make you whole.
Love can make or break you,
Love is in your soul.

Love is in your heart,
Love is in your mind.
Love doesn't discriminate,
Love is always blind.

Love is universal,
It encompasses the globe.
No matter where you are,
Love has a language all its own.

Love is all around you.
There's plenty of love to spare.
You cannot see or touch it,
But love is everywhere.

Love's the greatest power,
And yet it is so small.
Love's a gift from God
To be shared amongst us all.