

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023

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

"Psalm 23"

arr. Michael Burkhardt

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

US Together & Sufficient Grace
Garage Sale

Deb Blaho
Joyce Lloyd

Introit "Lead Me, Guide Me"

Doris Akers, 1953

(refrain) Lead me, guide me, along the way, For if you lead me, I cannot stray. Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.	I am weak and I need your strength and power To help me over my weakest hour. Help me through the darkness your face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. (refrain)
--	---

***Call to Worship (Psalms 23)**

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 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** (*in unison*)

Good Shepherd, you know us by our name. 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 fully embrace your love, but don't realize it could possibly be true. Forgive us, O God, for these and all of our sins. (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

1 Peter 2:19-25

Choir Anthem "Loving Shepherd of the Sheep" Michael Burkhardt, 2022

Loving Shepherd of the sheep,	Loving Shepherd, ever near,
Keep your lambs, in safety keep;	Teach your lambs your voice to hear;
Nothing can your power withstand,	Suffer not our steps to stray
None can pluck us from your hand.	From the straight and narrow way.
Where you lead us, we would go,	
Walking in your steps below,	
Till before your heavenly throne	
We shall know as we are known.	

Second Scripture Reading

John 10:1-10

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

I am the Gate!

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

Pg. 35

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"

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!". The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

Words and Music: Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh
Words and Music © 1972 Hope Publishing Company
Used by Permission. CCLI License # 1203910

***Postlude** "We Are One in the Spirit" arr. Lani Smith

Pastors: Steve Watters

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: Cindy Newman

Acolyte: Darren Cox

When Cindy was 6 years old, her family moved to London when her father became the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. You might know him ... Rev. Gordon Johnson. Cindy has served the church in several capacities over the years ... Sunday School teacher (for 3rd grade students, unruly 4th grade boys, junior high students, and adults). She has also been a church camp advisor, youth group advisor, assistant church custodian, a member of the Presbyterian Women, Board of Deacons (clerk), and choir member. Currently, Cindy is a ruling elder.

Cindy is married to Rob, and they have 3 adult sons who all live/work in the Columbus area ... Nick, Drew, and Zach. Cindy is a registered nurse and works as an Instructional Designer in the Learning Dept. at Ohio Health.