

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
4th Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020-11:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

GREETING

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ who said: I am the good shepherd and I know my own and my own know me...be with us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYERS

Julie Karlen: After 2 months of the trial drug, the target lesions have shrunk by 40% and are no longer FDG active on the PET scan. There is no metastases to the brain and she will know more about radiation treatments later this week. Thanks be to God and we keep Julie and Trey, the kids and all the family in our prayers.

A HEADS UP FOR NEXT WEEK-MAY 10! This Sunday, Mother's Day is typically the Sunday our mothers and graduates are recognized, as well as the Sunday our children, youth and young adults lead worship. And, I am so excited to say...that tradition will continue! It is a service that is just plain good for the soul. We keep all of those leading, as well as our seniors, Ryan Blair and Jezzi Whitley, in our prayers.

Thank you for continuing to share your tithes and offerings. While we are away from one another, the ministry God has given us at Eastminster continues. You are a generous people who find your peace and joy in the generosity of God!

I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers (Ephesians 1:16)

PSALM OF PRAISE

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.

OPENING PRAYER

Ever-present God, with all that is within us, we give you our thanks and praise; for you are our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

VOLUNTARY

*Brother James Air
Melody Davis*

Arr, Lani Smith

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 187 *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

CALL TO CONFESSION

It is Jesus who calls us to come, holding nothing back--coming just as we are--confessing our need for God and one another. Will you pray with me?

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, God, for not following your ways. Forgive us for not remembering that we are your sheep, and you are our Shepherd. Forgive us when we have not listened for your voice but acted in the ways of the world. Guide us back to your path, back to loving you and to loving our neighbors. Help us to unclench our fists and lend out our hands in hope and healing, forgiveness and love. In the name of Christ our Shepherd we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Once we were lost sheep with no idea where we were going. But no longer! Through Jesus Christ, things have been set right with God. He carried our sins to the cross and his wounds became our healing. Now we are named and kept for good by the Shepherd of our souls. Thanks be to God!

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us Lord in the direction you would have us go. Illumine our hearts with a deeper awareness of your precious Word and give us the grace to love you more and serve you better in the place where you have placed us. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen

EPISTLE READING (*Pew Bible, page 233*)

1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

ANTHEM

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Soloist: Katie Karlen, Charlotte Turner, Sean Turner

Harry R. Shelly

NEW TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible, page 103*)

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. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

*HYMN 803 *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

SERMON

Oh the Places We Will Go

Sherry Holloman

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

You, O God, are our Shepherd. You provide everything we need. You let us rest in green meadows and lead us beside quiet streams. You renew our strength and guide us in ways that bring honor to your name. Even when we walk through difficult valleys, we will not fear, for you never are far away—protecting and comforting, guarding and guiding every step we take. You prepare a feast for us in the presence of our enemies. You welcome us as friends and lavish your blessings on us. We know that your goodness and unfailing love will continue to pursue us all the days of our lives, and that after our lives here are over, we will spend eternity in your presence. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, hear this affirmation of our faith. Amen

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Compassion is born out of a wise mind and a wise heart. Through that wisdom, may we give to God and others with a glad and generous heart. May we receive God’s tithes and our offerings

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Beautiful Savior
Melody Davis

Arr. Davis Cherwin

*RESPONSE 606 *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We pray, God, that you will take the offerings of our lives and resources and use them to spread the Good News, that nothing we do can ever separate us from your love in Jesus Christ. Amen

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*THE INVITATION

When we come to this table, we proclaim the truth that God has leads us on paths of righteousness and we acknowledge that it is God who prepares the table. At this table, we experience the good abundance of green pastures and still waters; we announce God's goodness and mercy; we declare that death is a part of life, but in Christ we have no fear. Let us offer our prayer of thanksgiving to our Good Shepherd.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts to the Lord.

We lift our hearts to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of creation, you are made known in your great works. All of our senses delight in the beauty around us. From dust you formed us and to dust we will return, and just as you breathed the breath of life into us, so that breath – our soul – will be restored to you. So, with reformers and saints who have gone before us, with friends and neighbors sitting around us, we lift our songs of praise to you:

*RESPONSE 556 *Holy, Holy Holy*

Jesus, you took on humanity to make theology real. In your life, you helped us to understand what it means to believe. You showed us what it looks like to walk in paths of righteousness. In your feeding and healing, you sat your people in green pastures feeding them the Bread of Life and leading them to Living Water. You restored their soul. You restore our soul. As we remember your life, your teachings, your words, as we celebrate the good news of your resurrection, we speak of our faith, which often seems a mystery:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

RESPONSE *Lamb of God*

Arr. Charles Karlen

Holy Spirit, you are made known in the goodness and mercy that both leads us and earnestly seeks us. In your goodness, you comfort us with your presence and correct us when we wander. In your mercy, you show us how to return evil with love. You also, Holy Spirit, are the one whose presence at this table makes it more than just a few pieces of bread and a cup of juice. We pray that once again you would make this the Bread of Life and the Cup of the New Covenant – bringing us together in the house of the LORD – in this life and the one to come.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Now hear the yearnings of our hearts and answer in your time and your way. God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, we offer you our thanksgiving for all the ways you lead us. And recognizing your unity in one another we demonstrate our unity in you as we join our voices saying the Lord's Prayer in the words most familiar to each of us: **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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND BREAKING OF THE BREAD

RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT

This sacrament is not the possession of this congregation nor of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Lord welcomes you. We welcome you. All persons are invited to receive the sacrament.

COMMUNION RESPONSE (LUYH 20) *Alleluia*

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Good and merciful God, we pray that our theology would be more than words as it is made real in our lives. May this meal nourish our bodies and souls so that we might live in service to the world around us, to your glory. Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD

* INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BLESSING

Go now with your trust in the Good Shepherd, and let us love, not just in words, but in truth and action. Believe in the name of Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

And may God be at our side, even in valleys of death.
May Christ Jesus be the cornerstone of our lives.
And may the Holy Spirit abide in us,
and tend us with love and mercy all the days of our lives.
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
Amen

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 740 *Lead Me, Guide Me*

***You are invited to stand as you wish**