



# GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship April 26, 2026 9:30am  
Fourth Sunday of Easter

## Gathering

*The prelude, the first act of worship, sets the tone for what is to follow.  
So, we invite you as worshipers to gather, to transition from your busy lives  
into a sacred place of communion with God and with each other. – Dr. Kimo Smith, adapted*

PRELUDE

“Sheep May Safely Graze”  
Linda Dover, organist

J.S. Bach

*In worship following reflective music, we are requesting a response of quiet or a  
contemplative “amen.” Any music that elicits a response of applause is to the glory of God.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Unison)

**The Lord is our shepherd; we shall not want.  
God leads us beside still waters and restores our souls.  
Jesus calls us by name and leads us to abundant life.  
In Christ, we find pasture, protection, and peace.  
Come, let us worship the Good Shepherd,  
who gathers us, feeds us, and makes us one.**

\*HYMN 415

“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

RESTORATION

CONFESSION

# 415 Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

*All or Leader*

The musical score is written for a single voice part, likely a leader, in a 4/4 time signature. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is written on a bass clef staff. The melody consists of a series of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

1 Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y, weak and wound-ed,  
2 Come, ye thirst-y, come, and wel - come; God's free boun - ty  
3 Come, ye wea - ry, heav - y lad - en, lost and ru - ined  
4 Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness

The differing voices of this text indicate that its parts were not created together: The stanzas are cast in the voice of a preacher or exhorter, but the refrain (added later) takes the voice of a penitent heeding that call in language like that of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:18).

TEXT: Stanzas, Joseph Hart, 1759, alt.; refrain, anon.  
MUSIC: Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835

RESTORATION  
8.7.8.7 with refrain

CONFESSION

sick and sore; Je - sus read - y stands to save you,  
 glo - ri - fy, true be - lief and true re - pen - tance,  
 by the fall; if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter,  
 fond - ly dream; all the fit - ness he re - quir - eth

*Refrain*  
*All*

full of pit - y, love, and power.  
 ev - ery grace that brings you nigh. I will a - rise and  
 you will nev - er come at all.  
 is to feel your need of him.

go to Je - sus; he will em-brace me in his arms. In the

arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thou - sand charms.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Emily Nelson Dixon

Jesus says, "I am the gate for the sheep." Yet too often we wander through other doors, seeking life in places that cannot sustain us. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

**Good Shepherd, you call us by name, yet we do not always listen. You lead us toward life, yet we follow our own paths, wandering into places of fear, scarcity, and division. You gather us into community, to share, to pray, and to care for one another, yet we hold back— clinging to what we have, forgetting that all we are and all we have is yours.**

**Forgive us, O God. Restore our souls. Lead us again in right paths for your name’s sake. Help us to recognize your voice, to trust your guidance, and to live as your people — sharing generously, loving deeply, and dwelling in your goodness together. Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: The Shepherd does not abandon the flock. Christ seeks us, calls us, and brings us home. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new. We are welcomed into abundant life— a life of grace, mercy, and shared joy. Believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

#### A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*(Children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time. Greeters at the back of the Sanctuary will go with children to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up their children following worship. Our Nursery welcomes young children and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children’s wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)*

#### SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

**ONE:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you and all others!**

\*RESPONSE 243

“Be Not Afraid”

#### Equipping

#### MOMENT FOR MISSION

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 2:42–47

Dave Pack

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done

through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## ANTHEM

### “Shepherd, Savior, Lord”

Chancel Choir  
Terri Monrad, soloist

Michael Showalter &  
Douglas Nolan

*You are light for the dawn,  
You are rest in the night,  
You are hope in the midst of the storm.  
You are grace for each day,  
You're the Source and the Way.*

*You are Shepherd, You are Savior,  
You are Lord.*

*You are strength for the weak,  
You are sight for the lost,  
You are home for each wandering soul.  
You are peace for each fear,  
Joy for every tear.*

*Lord, You are worthy, worthy of praise!  
You are the music that wakens each day!  
Lord, You are holy, faithful, and true.  
I lift up my heart and give worship to You.*

*You are love for the world,  
You are mercy for all,  
You are faithful to heal and restore.  
You are life without end,  
You are Teacher and Friend.*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

### 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<sup>l</sup> shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words  
**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Tended”

Rev. Karen Wright

HYMN 803

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

RESIGNATION CMD

# My Shepherd Will Supply My Need 803

(Psalm 23)

1 My shep-herd will sup-ply my need; Je-ho-vah is his name.  
 2 When I walk through the shades of death your pres-ence is my stay;  
 3 The sure pro-vi-sions of my God at-tend me all my days;

In pas-tures fresh he makes me feed, be-side the liv-ing stream.  
 one word of your sup-port-ing breath drives all my fears a-way.  
 O may your house be my a-bode, and all my work be praise.

He brings my wan-dering spir-it back when I for-sake his ways,  
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta-ble spread;  
 There would I find a set-tled rest, while oth-ers go and come;

and leads me, for his mer-cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.  
 my cup with bless-ings o-ver-flows; your oil a-noints my head.  
 no more a strang-er, or a guest, but like a child at home.

The effectiveness of this beloved paraphrase of Psalm 23 owes much to the flowing shape note melody that serves as a "living stream" to carry the text, which in turn has been given a remarkable clarity and lightness through the poet's masterful use of single-syllable words.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: U.S.A. folk melody; Lewis's *Beauties of Harmony*, 1828; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986  
*Music Harm.* © 1990 Dale Grotenhuis

RESIGNATION

CMD

(alternate harmonization, 74)

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.**

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

**"Amazing Grace"**  
Linda Dover, organist

Arr. Martha Sherrill Kelsey

Sending

\*HYMN 187

**"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"**

BRADBURY

# Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us 187

1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
 2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard - ian of our way.  
 3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.

In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us; for our use your fold pre - pare.  
 Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a - stray.  
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.  
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

This unattributed hymn, like many that are now meaningful to adults, was written for children and develops shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18. The tune, composed for these words, was originally named for the text but has come to be known by the composer's name.

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

“Postlude in G Major”  
Linda Dover, organist

G.F. Handel  
arr. Walter E. Buszin

*\*Stand in body or spirit*

## GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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