



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship April 25, 2021 10:00am
Jesus, The Good Shepherd Sunday

Gathering

PRELUDE “Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound” arr. Martha Sherrill Kelsey
Linda Dover, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OUR SONGS “God Made Everything Big and Small” by Glenn Eernisee
Joy! (4s-1st graders) – Emily Hussey, director & Susan Eernisee
Max Soule-duck, Charlotte Hearn-turtle, Brynnley Krug-owl,
Mallory Hearn-geese, Grant Stromberg-frog, Liam Hussey-snake,
James Schmidt-sheep, Aiden Hussey & Evie Schmidt-bears

*God made everything big and small,
the rivers and the streams and the mountains tall.
Living Creatures dance and twirl;
all sing praise in God’s beautiful world!*

“Living in the Light” by Ruth Elaine Schram
(Incorporating “Fairest Lord Jesus”)
Celebration! (2nd-5th graders) – Pam Kelly, director
Singers: Xander Circo, Caitlyn Hussey, Morgan Krug,
Conor Schesser, Ethan Stromberg, & Harrison Stromberg

*Living in the light of Jesus, I will live in the light.
He will lead me step by step and I will do what’s right.
I will follow him and leave the darkness behind.
I will live in the light.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather together to worship God,
the Shepherd of our souls.

The one who has created us,
who sustains us,
who redeems us,
who walks beside us in good times and bad,
and who calls us to follow.
This is our God!
Let's worship Him together!

HYMN 630, *st. 1, 2 & 4*

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

CRUSADER'S HYMN

ADORATION

630 Fairest Lord Jesus

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Rul - er of the

na - ture, O thou of God to earth come
 wood - lands, robed in the bloom - ing garb of
 moon - light, and all the twink - ling, star - ry
 na - tions, Son of God and Son of

down, thee will I cher - ish, thee will I
 spring. Je - sus is fair - er; Je - sus is
 host. Je - sus shines bright - er; Je - sus shines
 Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o -

hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
 ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Franz Liszt used this melody for a "Crusaders' March" in an oratorio, but this hymn had nothing to do with the Crusades. No record of the German text exists before the middle of the 17th century or of the Silesian folk melody before the first half of the 19th century.

A TIME WITH STEWART

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(video)*

Gracious God, help us to live in love and charity with others,
and, as we ask for your forgiveness, enable us to be forgiving.
Take from our lives the hidden grudges and concealed hate.

Forgive us that we have so often denied you;
that like lost sheep we have turned away from you;
that we have sung with our lips what we have not had the courage
to practice in our lives.

Forgive our sins, comfort our sorrows, calm our fears,
and take from us every proud thought.

So fill us with love and concern for others,
and make us ready to help and quick to forgive.

We thank you that we are yours, created for your glory;
that you have called us all by name,
that through Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep,
who lived and died and rose again for us,
you have redeemed us;
and that your love will never finally let us go, or ultimately give us up.

We thank you that so often you have come to us
in the ordinary and everyday things of life, in our work and in our leisure .

Help us there to seek you and find you and serve you,
as in Christ you have sought and found and served us.

We ask it for his sake. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you and all others!

HYMN 473

“Shepherd Me, O God”

SHEPHERD ME

(All join on Refrain on cue following solo stanzas)

Shepherd Me, O God

(Psalm 23)

Capo 1: (Em) (C) (G) (D)
 Refrain Fm D^b A^b E^b

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -

(Bm7) (C) (Am7) (Bm7) (Em)
 Cm7 D^b B^bm7 Cm7 Fm

yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Leader stanzas included in Accompaniment Edition

PSALM 23

Refrain

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
- 2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.**
Refrain
- 3 He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
- 4 **Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I fear no evil,
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.**
Refrain
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
- 6 **Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house
of the LORD forever.** *Refrain*

PSALM PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, our good shepherd,
in the waters of Baptism you give us
birth,
and at your table you nourish us with
heavenly food.
In your goodness and mercy,
lead us along safe paths,
beyond the terrors of evil and death,
to the house of the Lord
where we may rest securely in you
forever.
Amen.

For centuries no psalm has been better known or more beloved than Psalm 23. Although most people now have little occasion to encounter actual shepherds in daily life, this image remains a cherished and meaningful expression of reliance on God's faithful protection and provision.

Equipping

EPISTLE LESSON

Acts 4:5–12

(CEB)

The next day the leaders, elders, and legal experts gathered in Jerusalem, along with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others from the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and asked, "By what power or in what name did you do this?" Then Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, answered, "Leaders of the people and elders, are we being examined today because something good was done for a sick person, a good deed that healed him? If so, then you and all the people of Israel need to know that this man stands healthy before you because of the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is the stone you builders rejected; he has become the cornerstone! Salvation can be found in no one else. Throughout the whole world, no other name has been given among humans through which we must be saved."

MUSICAL RESPONSE

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus"

arr. Russell Schulz-Widmar

Chancel Ensemble

Words by Horatias Bonar

Katie Hearn & Cheryl Johnson, handbells

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
and in your weariness lay down your head upon my breast."*

*I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give the living water,
thirsty one, stoop down and drink, and live."*

*I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."*

*I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my Star, my Sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk 'til traveling days are done.*

GOSPEL LESSON

John 10:1–20

LUMO video

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

sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes [\[a\]](#) it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.” Again the Jews were divided because of these words. Many of them were saying, “He has a demon and is out of his mind. Why listen to him?”

SERMON

“Who Is at the Gate?”

Rev. Sue Trigger

[Sending](#)

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SENDING

God Be with You Till We Meet Again 541

Unison *Harmony*

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing coun - sels
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; un - seen wings pro -
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's ban - ner

guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en - fold you:
 tect - ing hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you:
 thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing arms a - round you:
 float - ing o'er you; smite death's threat - ening wave be - fore you:

Unison

God be with you till we meet a - gain.

A North American Congregational minister wrote this text as a Christian expansion of the root sense of "good-bye": God be [with] ye/you. The tune, named for a cousin, was composed by one of the few 20th-century British composers to make a major contribution to hymnody.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“This Joyful Eastertide”
Linda Dover, organ

arr. John Leavitt

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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