

Sunday Worship
Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25, 2021

Gathering of God's People

Welcome and Announcements - Bobbe Biles

Prelude: "O Master Let Me Walk with Thee" - arranged by Barbara B. Kinyon
• **BPC Bell Choir**

Call to Worship:

L: The Lord is our Shepherd, our Guardian and our Guide.

P: Green pastures and silent still waters beckon us and comfort us.

L: Even though difficulties happen in our lives, God is still with us.

P: God surrounds us with bounty and love.

L: God's mercy accompanies us on our journey.

P: And we will dwell in God's house forever.

Hymn: "When Morning Gilds the Sky"

*When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer
to Jesus I repair: may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Does sadness fill my mind?
A solace here I find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this: may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Let earth's wide circle round
in joyful notes resound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky
from depth to height reply: may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song
through all the ages long: may Jesus Christ be praised!*

Call to Confession:

When we say we have no sin, then we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But, when we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us all our unrighteousness. Let us together confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession:

Anger, hatred and anguish blare at us from the media. The sounds and sights of hurt and pain harden our hearts. We allow ourselves to be filled with the poison of anxiety instead of turning to your Word, which brings us peace. We feel helpless when we hear of so much violence in an already hurting world. Help us, Lord, to place our lives in your care, to trust in your comfort and guidance.

Silent confession

Forgive our resistance to your compassionate love. Catch us as we run from you and place us on the right path. Show us where we may bring healing into this painful world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

God knows us better than we know ourselves. God loves us when we fall short of our own hopes of bringing hope and healing to those in need. God gives us another chance over and over again. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

Anthem: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" - by Beethoven and arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson
• **BPC Bell Choir**

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons: 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 shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

John 10:11-18

“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 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.”

L: This is the word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: “Our Shepherd’s Love” - Rev. Dr. Barbara Booth-Jarmon

Responding to God’s Word

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Hymn: "Savior, Like a Shepherd"

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us;
for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us: we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us: we are yours.*

*We are yours: in love befriend us;
be the guardian of our way.
Keep your flock: from sin defend us;
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray.*

*You have promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.*

*Early let us seek your favor;
early let us do your will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us; love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us; love us still.*

Offering of Our Lives and Gifts

Prayer of Dedication:

Lord, our Leader into places good for us, we thank you for appointing us stewards over the gifts you have given. Bless these humble gifts offered so that Your Love can be spread around the community, country and world. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Doxology: "Now Thank We All Our God"

*Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, In whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mother's arms Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

Returning to the World in God's Name

Hymn: "When Peace like a River" (It Is Well with My Soul)

*When peace like a river
attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

Refrain:

*It is well with my soul;
it is well; it is well with my soul.*

*Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ hath regarded
my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul. (Refrain)*

*He lives: O the bliss
of this glorious thought.
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! (Refrain)*

Charge and Blessing

Response: “When Peace like a River” (*It Is Well with My Soul*)

*Lord, hasten the day
when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul.*

*It is well with my soul;
it is well; it is well with my soul.*

Postlude: “Love Lifted Me” - by Howard E. Smith - arranged by Lloyd Larson

**Today’s chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God
by Patrice & Craig Law,
in loving memory of
Patricia Bertrand and Dorothy Law.**

Psalm 23 - Japanese Translation

The Lord is my Pace-setter, I shall not rush;
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.
He provides me with images of stillness,
which restore my serenity.

He leads me in ways of efficiency
through calmness of mind,
and His guidance is peace.
Even though I have a great many things
to accomplish each day,
I will not fret, for His presence is here;

His timelessness, His all importance,
will keep me in balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal
in midst of my activity,

By anointing my mind with His oils of tranquility.
My cup of joyous energy overflows,
surely harmony and effectiveness
shall be the fruits of my hours,
for I shall walk, in the pace of my Lord.