

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for the Fourth Sunday of Easter**

April 21, 2024

Pre-service: *Moments in Prayer* - Anthony Giamanco

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Peaceful Piano #9* - Mark Hayes

Introit#740: *Lead Me, Guide Me* Chancel Choir

Call to Worship:

We come to God, our holy shepherd, as we come to a green meadow.

God prepares a place for us, and we give glory in God's presence.

How excellent is this dwelling place under the eyes of God's care.

We turn to God in joy. Our good shepherd provides for all our needs.

Prayer of the Day:

Providing God, in our journey of faithfulness, we graze in the pastures you lead us to each day. As we move along, our steps may seem aimless, yet you keep watch and never leave. When we are tired, you prepare for us a table. When we are thirsty, your cup of goodness and mercy overflows. When we are lost, you seek us out. And oh, how our hearts leap when you call to us, for we know your voice and feel your love. Dearest God, we are so grateful that your staff of righteousness leads us home. Amen.

Hymn #394: *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* (please stand)

Call to Confession

Christ is the good shepherd,

who leads us to safety and peace no matter what we have done.

Christ's voice calls us to repent and return;

let us heed that voice and go to God in prayer.

Prayer of Confession

God of community, you call us to a world radically different from what we are used to. You ask us to lay aside our ideas of "mine" and "yours." You show us a life where goods are shared, where all are loved, and faithfulness is shown through generosity. But we cling to our possessions, trusting them more than we trust you. Forgive us, merciful God. Help us to truly believe in your just and

peaceful realm and to work to make it so.

Declaration of Pardon

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,

**so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness;
by his wounds we have been healed.**

For we were going astray like sheep,

but now we have returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls. Thanks be to God!

The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria Patri #581: *Glory Be to the Father* *(please stand)*

Anthem: *The Lord is My Shepherd* Allen Pote

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Worship leader will lead the prayers.

God of grace. **Hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of the Good News. *(brief silence)*

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel.

God of grace. **Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ our resurrected and living Lord, who taught us to pray:

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

Hymn #187: *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us* *(seated)*

Prayer for Illumination:

Gracious God, like a shepherd lead us. Open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today.

Scriptures for the Day

First Lesson: Acts 4:5 - 12

Epistle Lesson: I John 3:16 – 24

Gospel Lesson: John 10:11- 18

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Love In Deed*

Jonathan Kimball

Affirmation of Faith *based on Psalm 23 by Cathy Scott*

(stand)

The LORD is my shepherd

**I am His sheep. I know His voice, and I follow Him,
as He calls, leading me.**

I shall not be in want

For with Him, I do not lack.

He makes me lie down in green pastures

Giving me rest in His perfect provision.

He leads me beside quiet waters

Enabling me to drink in all that I want in peace.

He restores my soul

**Correcting my thinking, healing my heart and empowering
my will to align with His**

He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake

Showing me the best way to live for myself and others.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil

For Your goodness is greater, shining great light.

For you are with me.

You will never leave me nor forsake me.

Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

They guide and protect me, keeping me safe.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies

A veritable feast and banquet, giving me strength, making me strong in You.

You anoint my head with oil

And it runs down over me onto others, blessing us all profusely.

My cup overflows

With unending wave of grace upon grace upon grace.

Surely goodness and love will follow me, all the days of my life

Heaping themselves upon me.

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever

With my Father and Family, always united as One in Him.

Amen

Amen

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

(please be seated)

Offertory Hymn #710:

We Lift Our Voices

Prayer of Dedication:

Whatever we ask, in accordance with your will, we receive and our cup overflows. Confident in divine abundance and humbly eager to turn from covetous greed, we return what we have received for the Shepherd's work, that green pastures and safe folds will welcome any who live in fear; that peaceful waters will sustain hurting hearts; that a voice of welcome will be heard at each gate; that a feast will be prepared for all who hunger and thirst; and all may safely graze. In the name of the One who is our comfort. Amen.

Sending Hymn #747:

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

(stand)

Benediction:

(remain standing)

Little children, sheep of the Good Shepherd: As we journey toward the fold, we travel through the valley of shadow, growing in grace, becoming a blessing. Baptismal wells restore our souls, a rich feast is spread by divine abundance, and divisions end as our cup overflows.

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

Postlude: *Great God of Might and Glory* - Lani Smith

Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by the Chancel Choir and Lorie Francis. Worship led by Melba Read and sermon provided by Jonathan Kimball.

Portions of the service reprinted by permission of Presbyterian Press from Call to Worship®. Copyright 2023, and Sundays and Seasons 2024, Augsburg Fortress Press, Copyright 2023.