

## CHURCH SESSION

### Class of 2020

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Brooks Keiser  
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### Class of 2021

Rickie Cooke  
Anna Tate  
Janet Vawter

### Class of 2022

Kevin Bopp  
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# Grace Presbyterian Church

Worships God

May 3, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter/Good Shepherd Sunday

(Today's worship is online only)

## The Bell Calls Us to Worship

**Prelude** Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (Grosser Gott) arr. D. Bish

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 111** Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing Gelobt Sei Gott

## Opening Sentences

**Pastor:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**People:** **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

## Prayer for the Day (spoken by the pastor; the congregation joining the Amen.)

Almighty God, you sent Jesus, our good shepherd, to gather us together. May we not wander from his flock, but follow wherever he leads us, listening for his voice and staying near him, until we are safely in your fold, to live with you forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

## An Affirmation of Faith for Easter Heidelberg Catechism, 1563

**Pastor:** What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**Unison:** **That I belong, body and soul, in life and in death,**

**not to myself, but to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ,**

**who at the cost of his own blood, has fully paid for all my sins**

**and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil;**

**that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven**

**not a hair can fall from my head.**

**Indeed, everything must fit his purpose for my salvation.**

**Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life**

**and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

Grace Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA),  
Presbytery of the Mid-South, Synod of Living Waters.

**Pastor:** The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Passing of the Peace** (Worshippers greet one another with the peace of Christ.)

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Lesson**

Acts 2:42-47

**Psalm 23**

Unison

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.**

**He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul.**

**He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me;**

**thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.**

**Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,**

**and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

**The congregation stands to sing**

**Hymn 121** That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright Puer Nobis Nascitur

**The congregation sits.**

**Epistle**

1 Peter 2:19-25

**Gospel**

John 10:1-10

**Sermon**

The Essential Shepherd

Mike Krech

"I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture."

John 10:9

**The congregation stands to sing**

**Hymn 387** Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Bradbury

**Apostles' Creed**

Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

**Gloria for Easter Season** Refrain of Hymn 122

Judas Maccabeus

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son.**

**Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.**

**The congregation sits.**

**Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication**

**The Lord's Prayer** (debts/debtors) Unison; Hymnal, page 16, Traditional

**Offertory Sentence**

**Offertory**

This Joyful Eastertide

Tune: Vruechten

17th Century Dutch tune/text by G.R. Woodward, 1838-1934

**The congregation stands to sing the**

**Doxology for Easter Season** (to the tune of Hymn 455) Lasst Uns Erfreuen

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Benediction**

**Recessional Hymn 171** The King of Love My Shepherd Is St. Columba

**Postlude**

Festival Postlude

Domenico Zipoli, (1688-1726)

Today is the **Fourth Sunday of Easter**. We continue to celebrate Jesus' victory over sin and death today and through the Great Fifty Days of Easter, including Ascension Day, May 21, and culminating with the Day of Pentecost on May 31. This fourth Sunday in Easter is also called Shepherd Sunday, or Good Shepherd Sunday because the Gospel readings are taken each year from the tenth chapter of John. There, in an extended metaphor, Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd. Israel was a nomadic community of herders prior to its time in slavery in Egypt, as it was again during the Exodus from Egypt and in the early days of return to the land of promise. It was fitting that God be described as Israel's shepherd (Psalm 23) and that Israel's kings were also so described. David was out tending the flock when summoned by Samuel to be anointed as king (1 Samuel 16). The prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel, among others, continue to preach the need for Israel's kings to be good shepherds of the nation so that the people will keep the covenant and not fall into danger from the attacks of other nations. In Matthew 9 Jesus has compassion on the people because they are like sheep without a shepherd. That same imagery is used in today's epistle from 1 Peter 2, as he urges believers not to go astray but to remain in the fold of Jesus, the shepherd and guardian of souls. (JMK)

## Hymn Texts for Online Worship

### **Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing**

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!  
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord of life is risen today! Bring flowers of song, bedeck the way;  
Let every tongue rejoice and say: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory That love, that life which cannot die,  
And sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thy name we bless, O risen Lord, And sing today with one accord  
The life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1931, alt;

Tune: Gelobt Sei Gott; Melchior Vulpius, 1609; as in *Pilgrim Hymnal*, 1958)

### **That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright**

That Easter day with joy was bright, The sun shone out with fairer light,  
When, to their longing eyes restored, Th'Apostles saw their risen Lord.

O Jesus, King of gentleness, Do all our inmost hearts possess,  
And we to You will ever raise The tribute of our grateful praise.

From every weapon death can wield, Your own redeemed forever shield;  
O Lord of all, with us abide In this our joyful Eastertide.

(Text: Latin hymn, 5<sup>th</sup> century; Trans. John Mason Neale, 1852, alt.;

Tune: Puer Nobis Nascitur; Trier ms., 15<sup>th</sup> century; Adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609;  
Harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1910)

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

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, Much we need Thy tender care;  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Thy folds prepare:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

Thou hast promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;  
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse and power to free:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor, Early let us do Thy will;  
Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Thy love our bosoms fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

(Text: Thrupp's Hymns for the Young, 1836;  
Tune: Bradbury; William Batchelder Bradbury, 1859)

### **The King of Love My Shepherd Is**

The King of love my Shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am His, And He is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow My ransomed soul He leadeth,  
And where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me,  
And on His shoulder gently laid, And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight; Thy unction grace bestoweth;  
And O what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever.

(Text: Henry Williams Baker, 1868;  
Tune: St. Columba; Ancient Irish melody)