

Grace Presbyterian Church

Worships God at 11:00 a.m.

April 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter/Good Shepherd Sunday

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation (Tune: Unser Herrscher)
Joachim Neander, 1680; arr. Anna Laura Page

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 113 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today! Llanfair

Easter Greeting

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, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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.**

Pastor: The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.
People: And also with you.

Passing of the Peace

(Worshippers safely greet one another with the peace of Christ and then sit for the announcements.)

Welcome, Announcements, and a Word to Children

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23 (KJV)

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 for ever.

Musical Meditation Precious Lord, Take My Hand (Tune: Maitland)

Attributed to George Nelson Allen, 1850; arr. Stephen DeCesare

Bob Vawter, trombone; Rickie Cooke, baritone horn; Susan Steppe, piano

Epistle

1 John 3:16-24

Gospel

 John 10:11-18

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 172 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Resignation

The congregation sits.

Sermon

The Risen Shepherd

Mike Krech

“No one takes my life 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.”

John 11:18a-c

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 108

Christ Is Alive!

Truro

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

God Still Lives

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

transcribed for organ by Arthur Wildman

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

Hymn 171

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

St. Columba

The congregation is encouraged to be seated for the postlude,

or you may depart the sanctuary quickly and quietly now if you need to.

Postlude

Postlude on the tune Webb (Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus)

George Webb, 1837; arr. Jason Payne

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today is the fourth Sunday of the season of Easter, which extends through the Great Fifty Days from Easter Day to Pentecost (April 4 – May 23, 2021). This joyful season of resurrection victory is celebrated in worship through our hymns, the Gloria and Doxology for the season, and an affirmation of faith in place of a prayer of confession. It has long been common to omit confession of sin during the Easter season as an expression of the absolute victory over sin won for us by the Risen Lord. Another practice in Easter season is reading the first lesson from the Book of Acts. This fifth book of the New Testament, written by Luke, author of the third Gospel, records the spread of faith in the Risen Christ. This fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday, as our Psalm is Psalm 23 and the Gospel reading is from John 10, where Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd.

(JMK)