

Bulletin for Worship

4th Sunday of Easter

April 25th, 2021

Call to Worship

Krista Tahlman

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, calls and we hear his voice. He is inviting us to come and find rest for our minds, and to be secure. He is teaching us what it means to love, and to be loved fully as God's beloved children.

We come into the presence of God with joy and confidence because we know that in Christ's love and grace, we are welcomed with compassion and joy. Let us worship God together.

Hymn Glory to God Hymnal #740 "Lead Me, Guide Me"

Lead me, guide me, along the way,
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I am weak and I need your strength and power
to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness your face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Lead me, guide me, along the way,
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

TEXT: Doris Akers, 1953; © 1953, ren. Doris Akers (admin. Chappell & Co., Inc./Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.)

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Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession

God of Love, we confess that at times we do not know You. We turn away our neighbors in need and we curse strangers instead of getting to know them. We do not see Your love in the world, and we do not love as You loved us. Forgive us for not loving others as You first loved us. Save us from our selfish ways. In the name of Christ, who gave himself up in the greatest act of love, we pray. Amen.

Take a few moments for your own silent confession

Assurance of Hope and Forgiveness

God's steadfast love endures forever. It is shown in that Jesus loved us while we were still sinners. It is shown by God's grace and forgiveness poured upon us freely. Friends, believe the good news: Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

We celebrate the gift of salvation that is for all people. Amen.

The Presbyterian Hymnal #579 "Gloria Patri"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

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Glory Be to the Father

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text. Composer: Henry W. Greatorex (1851)

Scripture Readings: 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

John 10:11-18

¹¹ 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The 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. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No 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.'

Message: "Love in Truth and Action"

Prayer

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

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.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned 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.

Sending Hymn Glory to God Hymnal #610 "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of God's grace!

The name of Jesus
charms our fears,
and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life, and health, and peace.

Christ speaks, and listening
to his voice
new life the dead receive;
the mournful waken to rejoice;
the poor in heart believe.

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through
all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.

To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heaven.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.; Spanish trans. Federico J. Pagura; Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee, 2001; Spanish Trans. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company); Korean Trans. © 2001 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)
MUSIC (AZMON, CM): Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

Benediction