

APRIL 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Greeting and Announcements

Prelude – Great is Thy Faithfulness Runyon/Bock

Words of Welcome

We gather to worship the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for his sheep. We gather to worship Jesus Christ, who calls us to lay down our lives for others. Easter people, Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Sounds of Faith – #215 What Wondrous Love is This

Prayer of Confession

O God, you have called us to love,
not in word or speech, but in truth and action.
You have laid down your life for us
and commanded us to lay down our lives for one another.
Still, O Lord, we offer empty thoughts and prayers
when the world needs our hands and our feet.
Still, O Lord, we fail to share our lives with the world.
Forgive us, we pray, and by your forgiveness,
raise us to new life in you.
Amen.

Response – #587 Alleluia

Scripture: 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 valley of the shadow of death,
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
forever.*

**Special Music – I Want to Stroll Over Heaven Carl Trivette
Zora and Randy Mallory**

Scripture: I John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How 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?

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

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. All 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..

Meditation

Sounds of Hope – #803 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Giving – Meditation from *Thais* Massenet

Pastoral Prayers, the Lord’s Prayer:

. . . Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Sounds of Love – #839 Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!

Benediction

Postlude – This is the Day arr. Rouse