



Welcome to Wilton Presbyterian Church

April 25, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

We are glad that you found us and that you are here. We are a progressive, welcoming and inclusive congregation seeking both to know Christ and to make Christ known to people from all walks of life. We pray that we will become better acquainted with you.

PRELUDE

“He Leadeth Me”
Arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Shannon White

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sing praises to God, you faithful; give thanks to God’s holy name!

People: **Weeping may linger for a night, but joy comes in the morning.**

Leader: You turn our weeping into dancing, God; you remove the garments of mourning and clothe us in gladness.

All: **May we praise you and not be silent! We will give thanks to you, O God, forever!**

UNISON OPENING PRAYER

We gather here before you, O God, in Easter joy! As members of the Body of Christ, we have missed being with each other all of these months. We ask in this time, that you be known among us. Grant us the assurance of your presence with us, your love and your renewing power. Through your word and Spirit, reveal to us your purpose in our lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus the Christ, the Risen one! Amen.

MEDITATIVE MUSIC

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”
Arr. Mark Hayes

Zachary Wright

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Patty Connor

SCRIPTURE READING

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 darkest valley, 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 my whole life long.

GOSPEL READING

John 10:11-18

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

SERMON

STATEMENT OF FAITH (see attached)

ANTHEM

“The Lord is My Shepherd”
Howard Goodall

Zachary Wright

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liz Archibald

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,
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 and ever. Amen!**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Order My Steps”
Arr. Jack Schraeder



THE STATEMENT (from A Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,

healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain

and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,

breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,

accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,

and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people

to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,

like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,

God is faithful still.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



WILTON PRESBYTERIAN STAFF

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SESSION	DEACONS
<u>Class of 2021</u> Buck Burnaman Forrest Close Berta Hull (Clerk) Jason Rice	<u>Class of 2021</u> Sonny Kern Dee King Tom Schneider Becky Shroyer Cathy Thomas
<u>Class of 2022</u> Patty Connor John Stewart Jock Wright	<u>Class of 2022</u> Rachelle Bernabei Sally Carta Virgil Roberson Liz Archibald
<u>Class of 2023</u> Cathy Ratcliffe Reshan Richards Alison Wood	<u>Class of 2023</u> Patti Dormer Julie Stein Ann White Marianne Wilson

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