

April 21, 2024; 9:00 am
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Pastor's ponderings as we prepare for worship:

Over the past century, the concept of the “authentic self” has gained prominence in the late-modern West, especially through the proliferation of “self-help” literature. The increased focus on the authentic self has also impacted the church world, and in some ways has undermined the importance of Trinitarian theology and how we live in community. This is one of several important factors that has led to declining involvement with the institutional church in the West, and especially the United States.

As we worship, I invite us to consider how our prayers, hymns, and liturgy are perceived as either individualistic or corporate. Is our theology more about “me and Jesus” or “me in community with others and the Triune God”?

As we are sent out ministering to those God places in our path, how might these differences be seen in the ordinary and everyday moments of our daily lives? How might these differences impact how we react and respond to the ministry opportunities we encounter?

We Gather Together

Welcome to today's Service of Worship. Whether you are with us in person, joining us live on zoom, watching on our YouTube channel, or listening on KFIZ, we are glad you are here. For those in person, please use the time before worship to fill in the Friendship Pad in your pew. We extend a special welcome to our visitors, and if you have not already received your welcome gift, please pick one up as you leave the sanctuary after worship.

Copies of the Glory to God hymnal and Common English Bibles are available at the back of the sanctuary for your use during worship.

Prelude: “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” *arr. by Dale Wood*
 “Be Thou My Vision” *arr. by Dale Wood*

Welcome & Announcements *Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin*

Ringling of the Bell and entrance of the Light of Christ

***Call to Worship**

Jaeda R.

God is our shepherd! God cares for us.
Jesus Christ is the cornerstone!
He is the foundation of our lives.
The Spirit abides in us!
And we abide in the Spirit.

*** Opening Prayer**

Thank you, loving God, for bringing us to this time of worship. Refresh us and heal us again. Remind us of the many ways in which you have blessed our lives with your abundant love and your presence. Guide our hearts and our spirits that we may hear your words and our souls may be stirred into active service to your people. In the name of the Good Shepherd, who leads us to life, we pray. AMEN.

***Sung Response: GTG 803 “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”**

Todd H. and Henry H., Cantor

***Call to Confession**

Jaeda R.

We wander from hope to hope, thinking the next person, the next book, the next new thing will lead us in the ways in which we long to live. Yet, if we open our eyes and pay attention, we will see the Good Shepherd, the One who will bring us into the kingdom of God's mercy and hope, even as we confess all the foolish mistakes we have done, and all the wrong turns we have made. Join me, as we pray saying,

***Prayer of Confession**

Jaeda R.

You O Lord, long to fill us with your comfort and peace, but we continue to take on more anxiety, more worry, more fear. You would comfort us in the gentleness of your hope, but we welcome the embrace of a world spinning more and more out of control. You would feed us with more than we need, but we continue to hunger for the sweet sensations offered to us by temptation. You keep your promises and offer us forgiveness and mercy all the days of our life.

Silent Confession

(In the silence of our hearts we confess our sins to God.)

May we keep our eyes focused on the path you have shaped for us; **may we listen to the call of the Good Shepherd who leads us into your joy, that kingdom prepared for us by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

In the midst of all that you fear, God is with you. God will not abandon you. Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, laid down his life for you and offers you hope and peace. **Amen.**

***Sharing God's Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

*(Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you using the ancient formula 'The Peace of Christ.' 'And also, with you.' Please be mindful of those who do not wish to shake hands or be too close. **We encourage you to use this time to send a text or emoji to someone who cannot be here.**)*

***Sung Response: GTG 582** "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

God's Word Is Proclaimed

Psalm Reading: Psalm 23 (Common English Bible)

(page 501 in the pew Bible; Common English Bible-p. 680)

The Lord is my shepherd.

I lack nothing.

He lets me rest in grassy meadows;

he leads me to restful waters;

he keeps me alive.

He guides me in proper paths

for the sake of his good name.

Even when I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no danger because you are with me.
Your rod and your staff—
they protect me.

You set a table for me
right in front of my enemies.
You bathe my head in oil;
my cup is so full it spills over!
Yes, goodness and faithful love
will pursue me all the days of my life,
and I will live in the Lord's house
as long as I live.

Gospel Reading: John 10:11-18 (Common English Bible)
(page 103 in the pew Bible; Common English Bible-p. 1305)

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. When the hired hand sees the wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away. That’s because he isn’t the shepherd; the sheep aren’t really his. So the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. He’s only a hired hand and the sheep don’t matter to him.

“I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep and they know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. I give up my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that don’t belong to this sheep pen. I must lead them too. They will listen to my voice and there will be one flock, with one shepherd.

“This is why the Father loves me: I give up my life so that I can take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I give it up because I want to. I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it up again. I received this commandment from my Father.”

Children’s Time

Jennifer Zander

Sermon: “One Flock with One Shepherd”

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

Sung response: *(congregation sings refrain, cantors sing verses)*

SHEPHERD ME, O GOD

Based on Psalm 23

Words and Music by
Marty Haugen

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -
yond my fears, from death in - to life.

The musical notation is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The first line of music is in 4/4 time and contains the notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The second line of music is in 4/4 time and contains the notes: D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), C3 (half). The time signature changes to 2/4 for the final two notes, which are G3 (quarter) and F3 (quarter).

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We Respond to God's Word

Receiving New Members

PRESENTATION (by Clerk of Session or other current Ruling Elder)

I present the following list of individuals who, by action of your Session, have been received into the membership of this congregation:

Joseph Klopp and Daneille Pike

(Pastor continues) You come to us as members of the one holy catholic church, into which you were baptized, and by which you have been nurtured. We are one with each other, sisters and brothers in the family of God. We rejoice in the ministry you bring to us. As you join with us in the worship and mission of this household of ministry, it is fitting that together we reaffirm the covenant into which we were baptized, claiming again the promises of God which are ours in our baptism.

Hear these words of Holy Scripture:

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God's own possession. You have become this people so that you may speak

of the wonderful acts of the one who called you out of darkness into his amazing light. (1 Peter 2:9 CEB)

CONFESSION OF FAITH

With the whole church, let us confess our faith, following the Apostles' Creed:

Do you believe in God the Father?

We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

QUESTIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

(New members are invited to turn and face the cross)

1) Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I DO.**

2) Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior? **I DO.**

3) Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love and compassion? **I WILL.**

4) In the power of the Holy Spirit, will you participate actively and responsibly in the worship and mission of Christ's church through your prayers, your gifts, your study, and your service? **I WILL.**

PRAYER (by pastor)

Almighty God, we praise you for calling us to be a servant people, all ministers one to another, and for mysteriously transforming us into the gathered body

of Christ, the church universal. We thank you for choosing to add to our number sisters and brothers to share in faithful ministry in this time and place, giving testimony to new life rising from our death experiences. Holy Spirit, move us into deeper forms of relationship and communion, so that our ministries of love for one another may be tangible means of experiencing the presence and personhood of the risen and living Christ. All honor and glory we give to you, our Triune God, both now and forever more. Amen.

Please join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall as we celebrate our newest members during our fellowship time with cupcakes and refreshments.

The Practice of Gratitude

In response to God's Word and remembering all things come from God, we offer with thanks a portion of that which God has entrusted to us. The ushers will collect God's tithes and our offerings. For those who have given in other forms, there are cards in the pew racks that you may use as a tangible action of gratitude to God. No matter what we return to God in material forms, may we spiritually place our hearts, and our very lives, in God's hands, to be re-shaped for ministry in Christ, furthering God's kingdom here on earth.

Offering Music: "May the God of Hope Go with Us"

Henry H. and Todd H.

***Offertory: PH 593 "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"**

***Offertory Prayer**

Prayers of the People

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.

***Sung response: “How Great is Our God/How Great Thou Art”**

***Charge and Benediction**

Go forth in God’s care,
taking love wherever you go.

We will abide in God’s love.

Go forth in God’s name,
taking Christ wherever you go.

We will abide in God’s love.

Go forth in God’s grace,
sharing mercy with everyone you meet.

We will abide in God’s love.

Postlude: “O store Gud”

arr. by Robert A. Hobby

GETTING CONNECTED:

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This Week at Church

Sunday April 21
 9:00-10:00am Worship
 10:15-11:15am Fellowship Time
 10:15-11:15am Growing Connections
 11:30-12:30pm Worship Team Meeting
 12:30-6:00pm Paige School of Music – Piano Recital
 1:00-2:00pm PYA at The Woodlands
 6:00-7:30pm Boy Scout Troop 702 Court of Honor

Monday April 22
 10:00-11:30am Staff Meeting

Wednesday April 24
 8:00-9:00am Men’s Breakfast
 1:00-2:30pm Personnel Team
 4:30-5:30pm Bell Choir
 5:30-6:30pm Finance Team

Saturday April 27
 9:00-12:00pm Table Tennis

Sunday April 28
 9:00-10:00am Worship
 10:15-11:15am Fellowship Time
 10:15-11:15am Growing Connections
 • Adults Leadership Training for Sermon Discussions
 • 8th-12th Grade Room 6
 • 4th – 7th Grade Room 3
 • Preschool – 3rd Grade Room 8
 11:30-1:30pm PYA – Lunch & Mission Planning
 6:00-7:30pm Boy Scout Troop 702 Committee Meeting (Zoom)

WEEKLY STATISTICS FOR APRIL 14, 2024

Individuals in Person: 95
 Zoom Households: 5

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
04/14/2024	\$1254.00	Tithes/Offerings
	\$0.00	Pave the Way
04/08--12	\$481.00	Vanco Online "Tithes/Offerings"
	10.00	Vanco Online "Pave the Way"
	<u>\$1745.00</u>	TOTAL INCOME FOR THE WEEK

PRAYERS

Brian C.
Pat D.
Gib D.
Arnold L.
Jesse F.
Liam A.
Burt M.
Marie L.

Chastity G. & Joan S.
Bob B.
Wendy W.
Andy L.
Phyllis M.
Sally S.
Dave E.

*LynnK.
*Ashley K.
*Cathie
*Mike S.
*Dale F.
*Karen & David H.
*Lorele C.
*Laura C.

The names with an asterisk (*) are not church members. However, a church member has received permission to ask that they be lifted in prayer. If you or someone you know would like to be added to our prayer list, please contact a Deacon or the church staff.

If you have a pastoral concern, that happens before or after office hours, please call the office (920.922.0425), press #2 for Pastoral Care.

LOOKING AHEAD

April 29	2:00pm	Versiti Blood Drive
May 4	8:00am	Piano Playground Recital
May 4	9:00am	Table Tennis
May 4	2:00pm	Bovin/Albrecht Wedding
May 5	9:00am	Worship / Communion
	10:15am	Growing Connections – Sermon Discussion

Financial Giving and Gratitude

You can give online at www.fdlpresbyterian.org. (Click on 'Giving'.) You can also give by cash or check on Sunday morning, or by mail. We are so very thankful for your contributions that help us do God's work in our church and in our community.