



*The LORD is
my shepherd
I shall not want*

PSALM 23:1

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 30, 2023

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *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.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

OPENING SENTENCES *(Revelation 7:17)*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: The Lamb of God will be our Shepherd;
ALL: he will guide us to the water of life.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRELUDE

Sinfonia from “Abdelazer”
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Purcell / Martin

CHORAL INTROIT

My Lord! What a Morning
Chancel Choir

African-American Spiritual

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Acts 2:42-47)*

Steve Bowers

One: Sisters and brothers, let us gather together with glad and generous hearts.
ALL: For many signs and wonders are being done among us.
One: Let us break bread together and share our lives in common.
ALL: Let us give what we can to all who have needs so that all people, no matter who they are, may regard us with good will.
One: Let us devote ourselves to our prayers and to the gospel.
ALL: For in this way God will add to our numbers every day.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 307 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Friends, in as much as God is our shepherd, let us not fear, but confess our sin that God may restore our souls.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Savior God, you beckon us, but we do not heed your call. You gather us, but we wander away losing ourselves in false and superficial comforts. You speak truth, but we fail to hear and respond. Good Shepherd, do not give up on us. Redeem us. Restore us. Resurrect us for life in Christ. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

Rev. Courtney Bowen

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Even when we walk through the darkest valley, God is with us. God does not abandon us. Know that you are forgiven and receive Christ’s peace.

ALL: *Thanks be to God. Amen.*

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 447 We Are Forgiven**

WE ARE FORGIVEN

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: *And, also, with you.*

THE WORD

ANTHEM

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers
Chancel Choir | Macy Berry, soloist

Welsh melody

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Courtney Bowen

***HYMN: 408 There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit**

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Steve Bowers

FIRST READING

Psalms 23 (page 501)

Steve Bowers

One: This is the word of God for the people of God. **ALL:** *Thanks be to God.*

SECOND READING

Acts 2:42-47 (page 120)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever. **ALL:** *Thanks be to God.*

**Congregation standing, if able*

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *The Confession of 1967*

Steve Bowers

God has created human beings for a personal relation with himself that they may respond to the love of the Creator. God has created male and female and given them a life which proceeds from birth to death in a succession of generations and in a wide complex of social relations. God has endowed humans with capacities to make the world serve their needs and to enjoy its good things. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage. People are free to seek life within the purpose of God: to develop and protect the resources of nature for the common welfare, to work for justice and peace in society, and in other ways to use their creative powers for the fulfillment of human life.

(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center isle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)

OFFERING

Steve Bowers

OFFERTORY

Hymn Improvisation on SLANE

Manz

Dr. Terry McRoberts

*Doxology (Tune: 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Dedicatory Prayer

Steve Bowers

SENDING

***HYMN: 733** *We Are All One in Mission*

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

***CHARGE + BENEDICTION**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Go with Us Lord

Tallis

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

A Joyful Trumpet

Harris

Dr. Terry McRoberts