

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT:

A LENTEN INVITATION TO TRAVEL TOWARDS THE CROSS IN PSALMS

THE JOURNEY TO Jerusalem

First Presbyterian Church 1573 N. Highland Avenue 731-422-1591 fpcjacksontn.org

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT | *March 10, 2024*

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION *O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people; Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

OPENING SENTENCES (*Psalm 23*)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: The Lord leads us like a shepherd.
ALL: *God nourishes our lives and restores our souls.*
One: The Lord is with us, even in the darkest valley.
ALL: *God's goodness and mercy are always close.*

WELCOME + ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

*SILENT PROCESSION

PRELUDE

Prelude on HERZLIESTER JESU
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Jones

CHORAL INTROIT

Blessed Jesus, At Your Word
Chancel Choir

Ahle

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 23*)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: The Lord is my shepherd. There is nothing I lack.
ALL: *God guides me in proper paths for the sake of God's good name.*
One: God bathes my head in oil; my cup is so full it spills over!
ALL: *Yes, God's goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life.*
One: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, our good shepherd, you give us new birth in the waters of baptism, you anoint us with oil, and you nourish us at your table with heavenly food.
ALL: *In your goodness and mercy, dispel the shadows of evil and death, and lead us along safe paths, that we may rest securely in you and dwell in the house of the Lord now and forever, for your name's sake. Amen.*

*HYMN OF PRAISE: 187 *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

BRADBURY

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. John White

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. John White

One: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
ALL: *But, O Lord, we are consumed with wanting more.*

One: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.
ALL: *But, O Lord, other pastures seem greener. The waters aren't always still. Our souls still thirst.*
 One: He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
ALL: *O Lord, we long to be led by you, though we may complain along the path.*
 One: 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.
ALL: *And yet, O God, we do sometimes fear. May we feel your presence, your comfort and your forgiveness anew.*
 One: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
ALL: *O God, sometimes we refuse to sit down at your table. Forgive us and help us to see your overflowing mercy.*
 One: 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.
ALL: *Forgive us, God, and lead us into your house.*

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. John White

One: The psalmist assures us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our life. As God's forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.
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. John White

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.
ALL: *And also with you.*

ANTHEM

THE WORD
Jesus Died Alone
 Chancel Choir

Raney

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Anna Poole

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. John White

***HYMN: 740 Lead Me, Guide Me**

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. John White

SCRIPTURE READING*Psalm 23 (pg.501)**Rev. John White*

One: This is the word of God for the people of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever.

ALL: *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON*Tables**Rev. Courtney Bowen***RESPONSE**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*A Brief Statement of Faith*)

Rev. John White

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.

OFFERING*Rev. John White***OFFERTORY***My Shepherd Will Supply My Need**arr. by Hebble**Macey Berry, soloist*

*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

*Rev. John White***SERVICE OF WHOLENESS FOR PASTOR JOHN WHITE** (*see insert*)**SENDING**

***HYMN: 39** *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION***Rev. Courtney Bowen***CHORAL BENEDICTION***Jesus, Remember Me**Berthier**Chancel Choir***POSTLUDE***Largamente**Boellmann**Dr. Terry McRoberts*