



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 21, 2024

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. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

OPENING SENTENCES (Rev 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 + ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRELUDE

A Lesson
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Selby

CHORAL INTROIT

Celebrate, Jesus, Celebrate
Children's Choir

Moen

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Justin Smith

One: Our Good Shepherd has led us to this place.
ALL: *He leads us beside still waters; he restores our soul.*
One: Even though we walk through dark valleys, even though we are fearful and in need of comfort,
ALL: *Our cup overflows with God's goodness and mercy; we shall dwell in the house of the Lord our whole lives long.*
One: Let us pray. 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.
ALL: *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.*

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 268 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

DIADEMATA

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

If we are honest with ourselves, our hearts condemn us. But God, who knows everything, is greater than our hearts; and God's deep desire for us is mercy, love, and peace. Therefore let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Let us pray.

ALL: *Lord, have mercy on us.*

One: We talk about love, but our actions betray us.

ALL: *Lord, have mercy on us.*

One: We talk about love, but we neglect the poor.

ALL: *Lord, have mercy on us.*

One: We talk about love, but we fail to love one another.

ALL: *Lord, have mercy on us. Forgive us, and abide in us by the power of your Spirit so that our lives may show our love for Jesus Christ, in whose body we live and in whose name we pray. Amen.*

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** (*from 1 John 3:16, 21-22*)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: We seek God's grace with boldness because we trust in Jesus Christ, the One who loves us and laid down his life for us. This is the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

ALL: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.*

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 581** *Glory Be to the Father*

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. A-men, a-men.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: *And, also, with you.*

THE WORD

ANTHEM

Blessed Assurance

arr. Hopson

Chancel Choir | Macey Berry, soprano

MINUTE FOR MISSION: EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

Elder Diane Sklensky

RECOGNITION OF LIBBY SMITH

Rev. Courtney Bowen + Ceil Cowles

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Anna Poole

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Courtney Bowen

***HYMN: 661** *Why Should I Feel Discouraged? (His Eye is on the Sparrow)*

SPARROW

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Justin Smith

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *1 John 3:16-24* (pg. 240)

Elder Justin Smith

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *Acts 4:5-12* (pg. 121)

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.**

SERMON

By What Power?

Rev. Courtney Bowen

RESPONSE

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

Elder Justin Smith

God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator. 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 aisle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)

OFFERING

Elder Justin Smith

OFFERTORY

Meditation on When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Jones

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

Elder Justin Smith

SENDING

***HYMN OF PRAISE: 744** *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

FESTAL SONG

***CHARGE + BLESSING**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

CHORAL BLESSING

Walk in the Light
Chancel Choir

Purchase

POSTLUDE

Chorale Prelude on He Who Will Suffer God to Guide Him

Bach

Dr. Terry McRoberts