

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Piedmonte

Music Director – Gregory Fraser

*** Congregation will stand**

PRELUDE with SILENT PRAYERS: Beethoven Symphony 6 (Pastoral) – 1st Movement

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS - During Covid, masks are required. At this time there is no need to stand during designated hymns. You may place offering in plate upon entrance or when exiting.

USE OF HYMNALS – Beginning today, members and guests may use the hymnals in the pews to follow along in worship. The hymn numbers are printed in the bulletin. (Hymns that do not appear in the hymnal are included on an insert in the bulletin.) **Regular church members** are asked to take the hymnal home and bring it back and forth to church with you. **Guests** who use hymnals are asked to please place them on carts at doors before you leave so they may be cleaned for future use. (A few copies of all hymns are available at the doors for those who prefer not to touch hymnals.) All in worship are asked to use hand sanitizer frequently throughout the service. We continue to ask that all refrain from singing out loud but hope that being able to again read the printed music is a step in the right direction to full participation in worship. We're almost at the COVID finish line! Praise be to God!

APRIL MISSION MOMENT: Operation We Care and CRICKET Center

INTROIT: "Lord, I want to Be a Christian" (PH #372)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd. **All: He lays down his life for his sheep.**

Leader: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd. **All: He knows us, and we belong to him.**

Leader: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd. **All: He speaks, and we listen for his voice.**

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray: **All: We are your people, O God, the sheep of your pasture, the flock you have gathered. Lead us beside still waters; teach us the way of righteousness; and feed us at your table; through Jesus Christ, our shepherd of faith and love. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" (PH #171)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: 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 be in humble spirit of confession, first in prayer together and then one-on-one with God. Let us pray:

All: Lord, have mercy on us. We talk about love, but our actions betray us. We talk about love, but we neglect the poor. We talk about love, but we fail to love one another. 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.

MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: 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. **All: We believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*RESPONSE: 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. Amen. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE:

Leader: May the Peace of Christ be with all of you. **All: And also with you.**

YOUTH MESSAGE: "Who You Calling a Sheep?"

Rev. Mark Piedmonte

SONG OF PRAISE: "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" (PH #416 vs. 1)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us pray: **All: Lord God, good shepherd, by the leading of your Spirit, help us to listen for your voice and follow in your paths all the days of our lives; in Jesus' name. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 John 3:11-24

Psalm: 23 (Unison, King James Version)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Gospel: John 10:11-18

Response to the reading of God's Word:

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord! **All: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON: "Getting Through the Darkness"

Rev. Mark Piedmonte

*HYMN: "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" (PH #172)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR JOYS AND CONCERNS (Please be seated)

PRAYERS FOR INTERCESSION (Responsive)

Leader: God of goodness and mercy; **All: hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

DOXOLOGY / DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" (PH #387)

*BENEDICTION / RESPONSE: "Go Now in Peace"

POSTLUDE: Au Lac du Wallenstadt by Liszt (Years of Pilgrimage)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY, April 25, 2021

4th Sunday of Easter

9:00am	CONTEMPORARY Worship Service – Kortright Chapel Kid's Church School
11:00am	TRADITIONAL Worship Service – Sanctuary; Greeter is Deacon Tammy Nickell

THIS WEEK: April 26-May 1, 2021

Monday, April 26	Sharing & Caring 6:30pm
Tuesday, April 27	Deacon Meeting 6pm
Wednesday, April 28	Prayer Shawl Ministry 1-3pm
Thursday, April 29	Bible Study 6-7:30pm

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Tuesday, May 4	Session Meeting 6pm
Friday, May 7	Operation We Care Packing Party w/Bikers w/o Borders 6-8pm – Volunteers needed
Friday, May 21	S'More Time with Jesus – Blessing of Pets
Saturday, May 22	May Dinner Drive-up or Delivery 4-5:30pm

- **May Dinner** – Saturday, May 22 Drive-up or Delivery 4-5:30pm. Menu: Honey Garlic Baked Chicken, Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans, and Dessert. Place your orders before Thursday, May 20th using the sign-up sheets at Church or by calling or texting Cindi Pruitt (443-880-5502). Indicate how many dinners you need as well as whether you will pick-up or would like delivery. This is an outreach to our church and community. If you know of anyone who is suffering emotionally, physically, or financially, please order an extra dinner or 2 and share with them!
- **Youth Group Adult Leaders are Needed** – As we head into the summer, we are hoping to regroup and re-energize our youth groups for all ages – elementary, middle, and high school. If you have a passion for helping young people grow in faith, please see Pastor Mark, Lindsay, or Jerry.
- **Lord hear our Prayers** - Let us pray for: All our family members, friends and neighbors who are sick or recovering from illness and injury including Penny, Rose, and Cindi; the family of Laura Madara, a firefighter who lost her life in the line of duty; Maria and Geoffrey Fraser (Greg and Leslie's son and daughter in law) –may God bring their new baby into the world healthy and strong; for our nation in light of the conclusion of the Derek Chauvin case.



The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) put it best in saying: *It is our prayer that this is the beginning of change — not just a one-off case, but a true change in the very fabric of society. May God reach into the hearts of every individual in this country and tear away everything that smacks of racism, bigotry and privilege. May God replace it with the warm embrace of compassion, justice, mercy and love.* Indeed, let there be peace and justice and good will toward every person on earth – and let it begin with us. Let us pray every day for every man and woman who gets up every day and puts on a police uniform with the intention to protect and serve us. May they be kept safe, may they be calm in mind and spirit, and may they be led by the Holy Spirit in all they think, say and do in the line of duty. Let us pray, too, for the seemingly weekly acts of violence in the news. Evil acts which take place at work, on city streets, on country roads and in people's homes. May the spirit of Christ's love have the final say, defeating all evil and keeping all hate-filled violence at bay. And where true mental illness is an underlying cause, may the stigma that too often gets in the way of people seeking treatment give way to Christ-like compassion, understanding and love. **Amen.**

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“The Good Shepherd” was one of the earliest widespread symbols of Jesus - often used in Christian burial sites with nearly 120 such images found in ancient Roman catacombs. This image was found in the Callisto catacomb, the earliest Christian catacomb in Rome (early third century).

PSALM 23

The Lord is MY Shepherd...
The Lord is YOUR Shepherd...
The Lord is OUR Shepherd...

YOU...ME...WE - shall not want.

He makes US to lie down in green pastures:

He leads US beside the still waters.

He restores OUR souls:

He leads US in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though WE walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

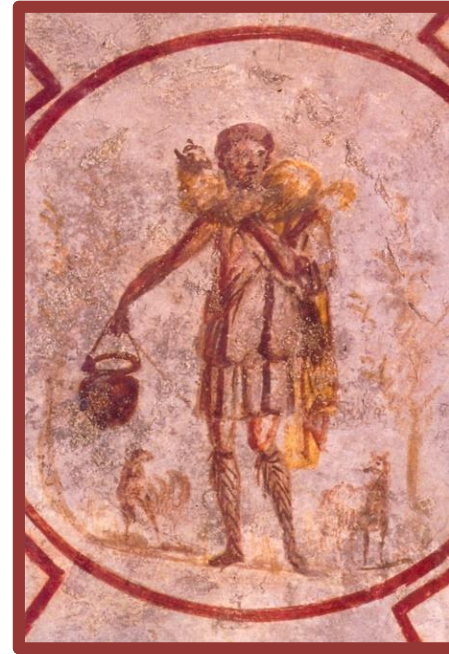
WE will fear no evil:

for He is with US; His rod and His staff they comfort US.

He prepares a table before US in the presence of OUR enemies:

He anoints OUR heads with oil; OUR cups run over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow US all the days of OUR lives: and WE will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. AMEN!



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