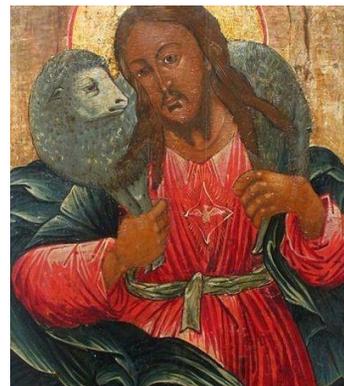


*Virtual Worship Service
for the Sixth Sunday of the Easter Season
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
May 9, 2021*



Prelude: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

https://youtu.be/w_UzqsQ8Ct4

Welcome and Announcements (PDF Attachment)

Call to Worship:

Day by day, God leads us:

to the deep, deep pools of peace, to the green, lush lawns of grace.

Day by day, Jesus calls us:

to pour out ourselves in service, to anoint the stranger with hope.

Day by day, the Holy Spirit shows us:

the community we could be, the family we are called to become.

Hymn of Praise # 475 *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Text: Robert Robinson, 1758, Music: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Tune: NETTLETON*

Sing along with the Crosby Family: https://youtu.be/R_7T5k_1-2k

**Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.**

**Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love!**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that goodness like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.**

Call to Confession:

When we seek God's mercy, we draw close the mystery of faith: love that cannot be undone by our sin. Trusting that God is grace, let us offer to God the truth of our lives.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Lord, like a shepherd, you never stop searching for your people, your care for us anticipates our need. Before we recognized we needed your grace, in love, Jesus gave his life for our forgiveness. We confess that we need your forgiveness. You are the shepherd and we are your flock, but we admit the times we have tried to take your place and take control ourselves. We admit that we have not always trusted your good news to be good for us. At times we have pleaded with you to care for us, but we have held back from caring for others and ignored the needs of others.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive us in the name of Jesus. Loving Shepherd, teach us by the Holy Spirit to follow you in the days and places of the week ahead (moment of silent confession). Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives. God forgives our failures and calls us back into the flock. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and freed to share God's goodness and mercy with others.

Response to God's Grace and Mercy # 246 *Christ Is Alive!*

Text: Brian Wren 1968, Music: *Musica Sacra*, 1778, Tune *TRURO*

Sing along with Geneva Presbyterian Church, Laguna Hills, CA: <https://youtu.be/ST4DDnbn4zc>

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.



First Lesson: Psalm 23

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 for ever.

Choir Anthem: *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

Sung by Mississippi College Singers: <https://youtu.be/j9XUSIzeRQ8>

Second Lesson: John 10:1-10

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to

them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Sermon: "The Meaning of Abundant Life" (PDF attachment)

Rev. Kathy Campbell

***Affirmation of Faith: A Portion of "The Confession of 1967"**

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set a pattern for the church's mission. His life as a man involves the church in the common life of all people.

His service to women and men commits the church to work for every form of human well-being.

His suffering makes the church sensitive to all the sufferings of the world so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of people in every kind of need.

His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on our inhumanity to one another and the awful consequences of our own complicity in injustice.

In the power of the Risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of people's lives in society and God's victory over all wrong.

The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So, to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

Hymn of Meditation # 839 *Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!

Text Fannie Jane Crosby 1873, Music: Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1873, Tune: ASSURANCE

Sing along with Alan Jackson: <https://youtu.be/6vfqYwfTqIE>

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

Refrain:

**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain)**



Prayers of the People:

Gentle Shepherd,
thank you for the way you have led us to green pastures and still water;
you've shown us great beauty this week that has fed our souls.
The brilliant green of the budding trees glowing in the morning sun,
the delicate symphony the birds sing each morning
the caress of the warm sun on our upraised cheeks,
the fragrance of lilac bushes.

Some of us have walked through dark valleys this week,
and all of us know someone in a dark valley,
valleys of sickness, grief, uncertainty, fear.
You meet us there in the darkness,
you protect us, comfort us, heal us, save us.

Our enemies are present in our lives;
forces that would take us away from you.
Pride, envy, hatred, selfishness,
all played out on an individual and corporate level.
We need you to guide us and keep us on your path of life and love.
You know the concerns of our hearts,
spoken and unspoken,
and we ask for your healing and your guidance.

You have provided for our basic needs this week.
Thank you for the food we've eaten,
for the luxury of variety in our diet,
for the joy of cooking,
for the clean water that comes out of our taps.

We pray for those who do not have enough food
and who do not have the basic need of clean water.
May your Spirit move us, and all those
who can make a difference, to do just that.

You anoint us with oil, you gift us with grace,
providing unexpected blessings over and over,
encouragement and new strength when we falter,
tender compassion when we are spent.
Goodness and mercy are following us
all the days of our lives.
Help us who have been so blessed
to continue to be a blessing to others near and far.

We give thanks for this good life, for life and breath this day,
a day to praise and thank you and serve you by serving others.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ who taught his disciples to pray:
Our Father...Amen.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:

The Shepherd cares for us, providing all that we need in abundance. The Shepherd calls us to love one another in truth and action. May our gifts reflect our trust in the Shepherd's care. May our offerings show our willingness to love one another.



Doxology # 608

Text: Neil Weatherhogg, 1988; Music: Hal H. Hopson, Tune: PRAISE GOD (Hopson)

Sing along with Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC: <https://youtu.be/BKcnin5ilJI>

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Ever-present God who speaks in thunder and earthquakes and in the softest whisper: we long to hear your voice over all the noise of the world this day. In a world so divided and polarized, we need to hear not only the voice of the Shepherd but the cries of other sheep who are being marginalized, forgotten, and abandoned. May the gifts we offer today be our response to hearing the One who speaks in the language of love and compassion. In Christ's holy name, Amen.

Closing Hymn # 318 *In Christ There is No East or West*

Text: John Ocenham, 1908, Music Alexander Robert Reinagle, 1936, Tune: ST. PETER

Sing along with the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church Virtual Choir, New York City: <https://youtu.be/tEwLle8Ue4Y>

In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden chord
close binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west;
In him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

Charge and Benediction:

The Good Shepherd leads us forward,
from this place, into the world to serve God's people,
to witness to God's love in all that we do.
Go in peace and God's peace will go with you. Amen.

Postlude: Psalm 23, *The Lord's My Shepherd*

https://youtu.be/A-qLa_2GPcM

