



*He Lives!*

Behold, I am  
*alive*  
for evermore.

REVELATION 1:18 (KJV)



# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Rev. H. Mawande Mzongwana

(Serving the Tuskegee Community since 1912)

701 West Montgomery Road

Tuskegee, Alabama 36088

Phone: 334-727-3210

[www.standrewstuskegee.com](http://www.standrewstuskegee.com)

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**April 26, 2026**

## **MORNING PRAYER – RITE 11**

**Self Guided Prayer**

### **HYMNAL**

### **PRAYER BOOK**

Musical Prelude

Opening Hymn:

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**76**

Opening Sentences

General Confession & Absolution

**79**

### **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

\*\* The Collect of the Day

\*\* The First Lesson: Acts 2:14a,22-32

\*\* Psalm: 16

\*\* Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Sequence Hymn:

\*\* **THE GOSPEL:** John 20:19-31

### **THE MEDITATION: 'Whose Voice'**

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 12; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

The Apostles' Creed

**96**

The Prayers

**97**

Suffrage "A"

**97**

Collect for Sundays

**98**

Collect for Grace

**100**

Collect for Guidance

**100**

\*\* *Refer to Insert in Bulletin*

## OFFERTORY

Doxology: *Praise God From Whom all Blessings  
Flow*

<b>The General Thanksgiving</b>	<b>101</b>
A Prayer of Chrysostom	102
Versicle and response	102
Closing Sentence and Scripture	102

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Closing Hymn:  
Dismissal



### FELLOWSHIP HOUR

The Christian Gathering continues after this service with fellowship and refreshments in the undercroft.

**PLEASE JOIN US!!!!!!**

**May 3 - A Parishioner**



# 4 EASTER

## Fourth Sunday of Easter



Revised Common Lectionary

Sunday, April 26, 2026

### COLLECT

*Traditional*

O GOD, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of thy people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calleth us each by name, and follow where he doth lead; who, with thee and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Contemporary*

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.*

### FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

---

## Refrain

---

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

---

### Psalm 23 *from* The Book of Common Prayer

- |   |                                                                              |                                                                        |                                                                                                                                         |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | The Lord is my shepherd; * I shall not be in want.                           | evil; * for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. |                                                                                                                                         |
| 2 | He makes me lie down in green pastures * and leads me beside still waters.   | 5                                                                      | You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; * you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over. |
| 3 | He revives my soul * and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake. | 6                                                                      | Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, * and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.           |
| 4 | Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no     |                                                                        |                                                                                                                                         |

### SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

IT IS A CREDIT to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered

for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

**GOSPEL:** John 10:1-10

JESUS SAID, "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."

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, April 27, 2026

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Friday, May 1, 2026

Saturday, May 2, 2026

Sunday, May 3, 2026

11 a.m. - Morning Prayer, ZOOM

### ***HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!***

**April      13 - Mario Lightfoote  
              23 - George B. Bulls**

**May        1 - Charles Gaillard**

## **NEWS FROM AROUND THE EPISCOPAL & ANGLICAN DIOCESES**

See [www.anglicannews.org](http://www.anglicannews.org) for the latest Anglican Communion News  
See [www.dioala.org](http://www.dioala.org) for the latest Alabama Episcopal News

### **NEWS/EVENTS**

T.U. ([www.tuskegee.edu](http://www.tuskegee.edu))

T.U. Graduate/Professional School Commencement-Saturday, May 2, 2026, from 9:30am-12:30am

T.U. Undergraduate Commencement-Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 12:30pm-2:30pm

### **COMMUNITY EVENTS (Tuskegee)**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual George Washington Carver Arts & Crafts Festival is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2026, downtown Tuskegee-on-the-square from 10am-6pm, featuring a parade, entertainment, food vendors, science fair, prizes, awards and more events. Visit

<http://carverfest.vai.org>

***Mother's Day is May 10, 2026***

**Primary Elections will be held in Macon County Tuesday, May 19, 2026.**

The following local positions are open:

State Senate District 28

State Representative District 82

U.S. Representative 2<sup>nd</sup> District

District Court Judge, Place 1

Macon County Sheriff

Macon County Revenue Commissioner

Macon County Coroner

Macon County Commissioner District 2

Macon County Commissioner District 4

Macon County School Board District 2

***Be Informed! VOTE as if your life depends on it!***

# ***PRAYER LIST***

---

CHRISTINA ANDERSON  
CAROLYN BLAND\*  
STEPHANIE BOSWELL

MARIAN GARMON\*

THOMAS BRAYE\*  
JAMES BRAYE  
REBECCA LYN CARTER  
CURT CARTER, SR\*

MARIO LIGHTFOOTE\*  
RONNIE LIGON

CHARLES M. CRANK, II  
PRESTON CRAYTON

CRAIG POWELL  
KENNETH 'SHORTY' MILLER  
JULIUS MYHAND, JR.  
CLEMENT SCOTT  
DAVID NGAWA\*\*  
MARTHA OSGERBY  
ANNA C. OWENS  
TUNESHA SMITH  
ANGELICA P. SNOWDEN

LUCENIA DUNN\*  
SHANNON DIXON  
TEDDY DOWDY\*

ANITRA FULLER  
ROBERT FRAZIER

YOLANDA P. SEAWRIGHT  
DARRYL SEAWRIGHT  
BRENDA D. ROBINSON\*  
MICHAEL ROBINSON\*  
LISA TECZAR  
CHARLES THOMPSON\*\*  
LLOYD WILLIAMS\*  
E. DRAKE WHITELAW

DIANE KENNEY\*

MARGARET 'KATIE' JONES  
THERON JONES

\*Local Parishioners

\*\* Shut-In Parishioners

## THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

We pray for our Companion Diocese of Honduras and their bishop, Lloyd; Chancellors, Treasurers and Secretary of the Diocese of Alabama; Diocesan Ecumenical/Interfaith Commission; St. James, Alexander City; and St. Phillip's, Fort Payne.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS!!

- ARMED FORCES: Please pray for our service men and women stationed in the U.S. and overseas, especially, Elijah Barber, DeRitha Marbory B. Green (retiring), Sam and Margaret Gunn Bunton, and Shavon Marbory Hogan.
- PRAYERS: Continue to pray for those on the Prayer List, friends, family and all humankind afflicted by disease, war and famine. Pray for peace!
- REMINDER: Please continue to furnish our Food Basket with non-perishable food items (located on the ground floor of the Education Building).
- NEW: The link for the Sunday ZOOM Companion Service can be reached by dialing: 1-312-626-6799, Meeting ID: 882 671 9532, Passcode 008810 or click on your email invite. Mark your calendar for Holy Eucharist Sunday, May 17, 2026, at 11am with Rev. H. Mawande Mzongwana.
- NEW: Please note the date change for Morning Prayer (May 3) and Holy Eucharist (May 17).
- NEW: Newly elected Bishop-Elect Richard Lawson will visit St. Andrew's on Sunday, June 7, 2026. Save the date.
- NEW: Work will begin very soon repairing the church elevator. Thank you for your patience.



## SERMONS THAT WORK

### Easter 4 (A)

[RCL] Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

### Whose Voice?

Jesus often refers to his followers as sheep. Likely Jesus is picking up here on the familiar imagery of the twenty-third psalm, which describes God as a shepherd who guides us all the days of our lives.

Scriptural as the imagery may be, some people might prefer not to be referred to as sheep. Some are even offended by this image, and that's probably because it has long been assumed that sheep are so ... dumb. Indeed a popular, derogatory term for a group of people acting stupidly is: "sheeple."

So you might be surprised to learn that scientists from the University of Cambridge have proven that sheep are not dumb at all. In fact, they have a high degree of intelligence within the animal kingdom. The researchers performed several in-depth studies with sheep and demonstrated that the average sheep can recognize and easily distinguish between at least fifty other faces—of their fellow sheep, humans, and other species—and that this memory stays with them over a period of several years. This is a definite sign, the scientists said, of intelligence. Additionally, they found evidence that sheep are capable of a wide range of emotions—another signal of higher levels of intelligence.

So why does the idea that sheep are dumb persist? There's actually a good reason for it, and that is because sheep act stupidly whenever they become frightened. As herd animals, they will do very dumb things when fearful. Of course, the lead scientist of the sheep study did offer the reminder that, "Any animal, including humans, once they are scared, don't tend to show signs of intelligent behavior."

While humans are recognized as the most intelligent species on the planet, maybe it is, in part, because of our tendency to react so often and blindly to fear that Jesus so often referred to us as sheep.

And yet there might be one important way that sheep have the upper hand on humans. Jesus teaches that sheep know the shepherd's voice when they hear it. Do *we* know the Good Shepherd's voice when we hear it?

Among the many, many competing voices in our world, one of the dominant and most controlling voices is the voice of fear. America has even been called a "culture of fear," as peddlers of fear appeal to our deepest anxieties in order to gain power and advantage. Politicians, much of the media, advertisers, and

advocacy groups, among others, peddle fear to gain advantage or profit. And there are likely many others in our lives who frequently speak fear into our hearts.

These individuals and groups may have different motives and methods for peddling fear, but none of them are terribly beneficial to us. Broadcasters, influencers, and the media seek sensational, often fear-inducing stories to ensure that people will tune in and stay hooked. Advertisers use fear to sell their products. This has been recognized since Edward Bernays applied psychology and the theories of his uncle, Sigmund Freud, to marketing. In his 1928 book *Propaganda*, Bernays asks, “If we understand the mechanism and motives of the group mind, is it not possible to control and regiment the masses according to our will without their knowing about it?” Marketers have said, “yes.” There’s even a branch of psychology called “neuromarketing,” which studies the human brain’s response to different kinds of advertising! And guess what they’ve found? Fear sells. Insurance companies are notorious for evoking fear, even “mayhem” (to borrow the lingo of one popular campaign). Medical and drug-related ads often start out with statements like, “Every 30 seconds someone dies of a heart attack” to get your attention and money. And we shouldn’t forget about the commercials that cause us to fear simply being inadequate, failing, or being publicly humiliated in some way—with only their product as the cure.

And what about politicians? Fear can be harnessed to get politicians elected: just convince enough of the public that you will keep them safe from various dangers—as you define them. Fear is also used by some politicians to get people to acquiesce to policies or practices they would otherwise oppose. This tactic is not new. Nazi leader Hermann Göring explained that if people can be made fearful, they may support a war they otherwise wouldn’t accept. He said: “The people don’t want war, but they can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. This is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and for exposing the country to danger. It works the same in every country.”

We are surrounded on all sides by invitations to fear. The fear peddlers in our culture sound a lot like the thieves Jesus describes in the tenth chapter of John’s gospel: those who fail to protect the flock because, “they care nothing for the sheep.” The result of their actions then, is to “scatter the sheep,” Jesus says.

Fear can keep us off balance, divided, and scattered as a people. Instead of coming together in a unified way, we can become so busy and distracted with protecting ourselves—or fighting with one another—that we don’t even realize what the thieves are up to.

We sheep desperately need a reminder to ignore—and even clearly oppose—the many voices of the thieves who surround us with fear. Instead, we need to listen to and follow the voice of the Good Shepherd, the one who calls us by name.

This shepherd leads us out of fear and division into peace and unity, where, as Jesus says, “we may be one flock under one shepherd.” The Good Shepherd, unlike the thieves, loves us. Instead of taking from us for personal gain, the Good Shepherd even gives his own life for us. In God, we really have nothing to fear because we are always in the hands of the one who loves us and will never let us go, in life and in death.

So whose voice are you listening to? Is it the voice of God, the Good Shepherd? Or the thieves? When we let go of fear, our panicked addiction to consumption, and our infighting long enough, we will hear the deeper truth: We are being called to follow the voice that beckons us to walk in the path of love.

God calls each of us by name. To hear that voice calling us above the clamor, the fear, and the thieves of this world, we have to stop, listen, and pray.

Do you know how to distinguish the Good Shepherd's voice from the others? While many seek to control us and our choices, only the Good Shepherd loves us and leads us to still waters. You'll know his voice because it will lead you into peace on the path of love. Even in the valley of the shadow of death, his voice will lead you to a place where goodness and mercy follow you all the days of your life. And his voice will lead to more abundant life.

The Good Shepherd loves you and calls you by name. Fear not.

***The Rev'd D. Rebecca Hansen** is the rector of St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in San Diego, and is the Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer for the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego. She has served faith communities in Oregon, Missouri, Michigan, and Ohio. She discovered her call to ministry while serving as a missionary in Chiang Mai, Thailand, as a young adult. She shares her life with her husband, three children, and their multiple furbabies.*



Sermons that Work and Bible Studies that Work are a joint offering of Forward Movement and The Office of Communication at The Episcopal Church.

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/bible-study/>

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sermons-that-work>