



Riverside Congregational Church
April 25, 2021

4th Sunday of Easter

“Where there is love there is life.” —
Mahatma Gandhi

Call to Worship

Leader: With grace flowing, the poet sings the opening lines of the famous prayer,
“The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.”

People: We hear the Psalmist’s contentment and wonder about our own.

Call to Worship

Leader: Settled on the ground, with grass tickling their toes, the psalmist rests, “God makes me lie down in green pastures.

She leads me beside still waters.

She restores my soul.”

People: We hear their deep need for rest and wonder about our own.

Call to Worship

Leader: With a deep sigh, the psalmist declares,
“Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me.

You prepare a table before me. You anoint me. My cup
overflows.

**People: We recognize their bold courage and wonder
about our own.**

Call to Worship

Leader: Remembering God's faithfulness, the psalmist finds words to carry with them,
"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long."

People: We hear their faithful trust and wonder about our own.

Call to Worship

Leader: Holy Spirit of Rest and Renewal,
in this time of worship inspire us with words both
ancient and new so that we may find the words
that connect us to You.

People: Amen and amen.

I Love to Tell the Story

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love;
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true,
It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

I love to tell the story,
'Twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and His love.

I Love to Tell the story

I love to tell the story, 'tis pleasant to repeat,
What seems each time I tell it more wonderfully sweet;
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

I love to tell the story,
'Twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and His love.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

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.

Psalm 23

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

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.

Acts 4: 5-12

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.

When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders,

if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

Acts 4: 5-12

This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

John 10: 11-18

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away--and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

John 10: 11-18

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."



Reflection

“Love is a Verb”



Pastoral Prayer

When Peace Like a River

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to know
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

It is well, (it is well),
With my soul, (with my soul)
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

When Peace Like a River

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
It is well, (it is well),
With my soul, (with my soul)
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Communion Time

Leader: God be with you

People: And also with you

Leader: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up to God

Leader: Let us give thanks to God

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise

Communion Time

All: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
Let His little child come in.

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me all the way;
He's prepared a home for me
And someday his face I'll see

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.



Peace be with you!