

**Order of Worship:  
May 3, 2020 - 4th Sunday of Easter**

**PRELUDE**

Music by Judy Brist

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING CHORUS**

*Take, O take me as I am.  
Summon out what I shall be.  
Set your seal upon my heart,  
and live in me.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.

**Many: They shall mount up with wings as eagles,**

One: They shall run and not be weary,

**Many: They shall walk and not faint.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE            "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"**

**Verse 1**

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us,  
  Much we need Thy tender care;  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,  
  For our use Thy folds prepare:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
  Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
  Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.**

**Verse 2**

**Thou has promised to receive us,  
  Poor and sinful though we be;  
Thou has mercy to relieve us,  
  Grace to cleanse, and power to free:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
  Early let us turn to Thee;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
  Early let us turn to Thee.**

### Verse 3

**Early let us seek Thy favor;  
Early let us do Thy will.  
Blessed Lord and only Savior,  
With Thy love our bosoms fill:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast loved us, love us still;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast loved us, love us still.**

### **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. Let us confess our sin before God and our neighbor.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: Gracious God, In Jesus Christ, you have called us to be a servant people, but we do not do what you command. We are often silent when we should speak, and useless when we could be useful. Have mercy on us, O God. Forgive us and free us from sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN**

One: This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. Friends hear and believe the Good News:

**ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** by Judy Brist

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Almighty God, when we consider what you have done for us, we are filled with awe and wonder. You sent your Son to save us. You set the table for us and Jesus himself serves us. You do not leave us in the dark but send the light of Christ to guide us in the ways of grace and truth. You give us your living Word, a compassionate community, the bread of heaven and the prayers of the faithful. We lack nothing and therefore we will fear no evil. We ask, Good Shepherd, for your rod and staff to guide and comfort us. While we lament our inability to be together in churches,

we rejoice in the ability to praise you no matter where we are gathered. Knowing that you give us the gift of prayer and the responsibility to care for each other, we lift up to you now those who feel as if they have been in the valley of darkness for far too long. Bring comfort to the brokenhearted and relief to the oppressed.

We pray for Ruth and Vance as they continue their treatments. Bring peace and comfort to their families as well. We pray for Pastor Merle in his struggle with cancer, may he also experience the peace of your presence with him in this difficult time. Bring comfort to his family as well. We pray for Todd and Ellen in this difficult time. Comfort them with your rod and your staff. God, you know the other cares and concerns on our hearts and minds today and we lift them up before you now.

Grant peace to those afflicted with anxiety and heal the sick. Strengthen all of those doing essential work, protect them and ease their fears and those of the ones who love them. Give wisdom and discernment to people in positions of power. Help us all to look to the interest of others so that all may have the abundant life Christ came to give. Lord, you call us by name and show us where to go and how to serve. You are the gate through which our comings and goings gain purpose and participate in your present and coming kingdom. Help us better to hear your voice so that we would not submit to lesser gods or vain pursuits. As we wrestle with the stress of this season, the uncertainty and the suffering of this pandemic, lead us in the ways of righteousness, make us brave in our kindness, tireless in our work for justice, humble in our walk with you. Do not let us grow weary of doing good. As we come together, across time and space, with the whole communion of the saints, we seek to reflect your love, sharing with one another, supporting the weak, tending to the vulnerable, breaking bread with all people, knowing we are reconciled and saved through the grace of our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day, our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

### **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. 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.

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

### **John 10: 1-10 (NRSV) Jesus the Good Shepherd**

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

## **SERMON**

**“So, what is this “Abundant Life?”**

**by Rev. Ken Ribe**

## **CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION**

Let us pray:

Gracious and loving God, you meet us where we are today, with our doubts, and fears. We are grateful that you are the Good shepherd who leads us in quiet ways, and even through the darkest valleys of life. Like a shepherd, you come along side us and offer us refreshment, and healing balm. We are grateful that you desire for us life in abundance, so that we will have everything we need. Give us strength and courage to seek to help others find the abundance that you desire for them.

Now to the one who is able to more than anything we can possibly ask for, think of, or even imagine. To God be the glory in the church, and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever, and ever. AMEN

**COMMISSION**

Go in Peace and Serve the Lord. Amen.