

Woodbury United Methodist Church

May 3, 2020
4th Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE

In Spring
Christopher Shay, keyboard

Maurice Ravel

Slideshow prepared by Catherine Mason and Theron Kissinger

GREETING

Rev. John Thomason

HYMN

The King of Love, My Shepherd Is
led by WUMC Virtual Choir

**The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow, and food celestial feedeth.**

**Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.**

OPENING PRAYER

Rynn Naylor, Liturgist
adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*
based on Acts 2, John 10

Loving Shepherd, we feel the wolves close at hand. Gather us to yourself, that we might dwell secure in your ways. Deliver us from evil, that we might build a community where all may dwell secure. Mark our fellowship with worship, study, prayer, communion, and the sharing of our possessions with those in need. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

led by the Cloud family

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Thomason

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Rynn Naylor

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Lessons for the 4th Sunday of Easter
from *The Revised Common Lectionary*

read by: Rynn Naylor

Acts 2:42-47 (NRSV)
Life among the Believers

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.

1 Peter 2:19-25 (NRSV)
The Example of Christ's Suffering

For 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.

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

"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.

HYMN RESPONSE *O Jesus, I Have Promised* Bode; Mann

SERMON *Endurance and Abundance* Rev. Thomason

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

based on Psalm 23, John 10

adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*

Christ, our shepherd and gate, we would rather chart our own course than be shepherded like sheep; we would rather find our own way than see you as the Way; we would rather be shepherds than sheep who are vulnerable and exposed. Forgive us when we bleat our resistance as you guide us to higher pastures. Be our gate, our way to safe havens, where we can dwell with you secure. Amen.

PRIVATE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

based on Psalm 23

adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019*

The one who anoints our heads with oil, the one who feeds us while our enemies look on, the one who delivers us from evil, invites us to dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

HYMN INTERLUDE

Let Us Break Bread Together

Afro-American spiritual

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR EASTER DAY OR SEASON

from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Once we were no people, but now we are your people,

declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

On the day you raised him from the dead, he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

BREAKING THE BREAD AND LIFTING THE CUP

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

from *Worship and Song: Worship Resources*

God of life, your risen Son has gathered us into the church, nourished us with his body and blood, and poured out upon us your Holy Spirit. Grant that we may receive the blessing of your grace, so that we may love you with all our hearts, and gladly feed your sheep in the name of Christ. Amen.

HYMN

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

led by WUMC Virtual Choir

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

Allemande

Rev. Thomason
J. S. Bach

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR REMOTE FELLOWSHIP HOUR
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TODAY'S SERVICE.**

**TODAY WE WILL BE OFFERING FELLOWSHIP HOUR THROUGH ZOOM.
THE LINK IS:**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71385405492?pwd=bzNrZWx0bW84dmoxUVgwM2wya3QvUT09>