

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

MORNING PRAYER: RITE II

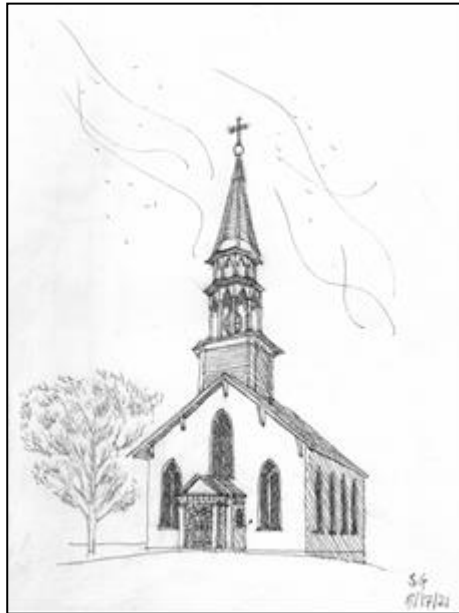
9:00 A.M. SERVICE

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023

**CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL**

9 South Main Street

Sharon, CT 06069



Mission Statement

We are called to be one with God and each other,  
by living the Gospel with love and compassion.

P.O. Box 1778  
9 South Main Street  
Sharon, CT 06069

## The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Lay Leader: Nick Moore

### MORNING PRAYER: RITE II

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**Prelude** *Feed My Sheep* (lyrics by Mary Baker Eddy, music by Brahms)

**Officiant:** *Welcome to all who have come to be with us today for worship.  
Our service starts with our:*

**Opening Sentence:** If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. *Colossians 3:1*

**Officiant:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**People:** *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

**Opening Hymn:** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

**Hymnal 645**

### Confession of Sin

*Silence may be kept. Officiant and People together, all kneeling*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. **Amen.**

**The Invitatory and Psalter-*all stand***

Officiant: Lord open thou our lips

***People: And our mouths shall proclaim thy praise***

***Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;***

***As it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. Amen.***

**Psalm 23 responding at the asterisk\***

***Lector: Judith Schwerin***

1 The LORD is my shepherd; \*

*I shall not be in want.*

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*

*and leads me beside still waters.*

3 He revives my soul \*

*and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.*

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \*

*for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

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.*

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.*

**First Reading: Acts 2:42-47**

***Lector: Judith Schwerin***

Those who had been baptized 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.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**The Epistle: 1 Peter 2:19-25**

*Lector: Judith Schwerin*

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.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

*All rise*

**HYMN: *I Come With Joy to Meet My Lord***

**Hymnal 304**

**The Gospel: John 10:1-10**

**Lay Leader: Nick Moore**

The Gospel of our Lord, according to John

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.”

*Glory to you, Lord Christ*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Christ*

**Homily**

*Lay Leader: Nick Moore*

**Music Meditation:** *The Road Home*

*Composer: Stephen Paulus*

**The Apostles’ Creed**     *Officiant and People together, all standing*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the  
body, and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

**The Prayers**      *Kneel*

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

**The 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Latin**

Pater noster, qui es in caelis,  
sanctificetur nomen tuum.  
Adveniat regnum tuum.  
Fiat voluntas tua,  
sicut in caelo et in terra.  
Panem nostrum quotidianum da  
nobis hodie.  
Et dimitte nobis debita nostra  
Sicut nos dimittimus debitoribus  
nostris.  
Et ne nos inducas in temptationem  
sed libera nos a malo.

**The Song of Moses** (Officiant leads- *people respond at italics*)  
*Especially suitable for use in Easter Season*

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; \*  
*the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.*  
The Lord is my strength and my refuge; \*  
the Lord has become my Savior.

This is my God and I will praise him, \*  
*the God of my people and I will exalt him.*

The Lord is a mighty warrior; \*  
*Yahweh is his Name.*

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; \*  
*the finest of those who bear armor have been drowned in the Red Sea.*

The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; \*  
*they sank into the depths like a stone.*

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; \*  
*your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.*

Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods? \*  
*who is like you, glorious in holiness, awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?*

You stretched forth your right hand; \*  
*the earth swallowed them up.*

With your constant love you led the people you redeemed; \*  
*with your might you brought them in safety to your holy dwelling.*

You will bring them in and plant them \*  
*on the mount of your possession,*

The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord, \*  
*the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.*

The Lord shall reign \*  
*for ever and for ever.*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
*as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

**The Collect:** 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.**

**Collect for Sundays:** O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**A Collect for Grace:**

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Christ Church Prayer:**

**Intercessor:** *Judith Schwerin*

O God, who has brought us into the Church of thy dear Son, make all in our parish a family of one heart and mind in love towards thee; and grant that our common life and work may help to bring in thy kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving**

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church: through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Strengthen and sustain all whose spirits are weak and whose lives are gripped by pain or suffering or distress. Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble.

For those who have asked for our prayers, especially:

*Bill, Donny, Nancy Briggs, Alex Fagan, John Fagan, Doris Higgins, Rindy Higgins, Eric Greisemer, Françoise Kelz, Eileen Mulligan, Wendy Grace Rossi, Joyce Weegar*

*(and for those we now name either silently or aloud.)*



Living Lord, confused friends left your empty tomb in both fear and great joy.  
We hold before you the sadness of loss and the joy of our hope in you.

The Altar Flowers, which adorn the Sanctuary, are given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of Frank Tufaro by Diane Tufaro and Carol Harte.

**Officiant:** The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

**Officiant:** Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

**Offertory Solo:** *Jesus Remember Me*

*Taize*

**Presentation of Offering -Doxology**

**Hymnal 380**

*Officiant continues*

**A Prayer For Joy in God's Creation:** O heavenly Father, who hast filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works; that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may learn to serve thee with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

**The General Thanksgiving** *Officiant and People together*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,

we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks

for all your goodness and loving-kindness

to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation,

and all the blessings of this life;

but above all for your immeasurable love

In the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;

for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,

that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.*

**Blessing:** Glory to God whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. *Amen*

**Closing Hymn: Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us**

**Hymnal 708**

**Officiant:** Let us bless the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

**Dismissal: Go In Peace**

**Postlude: My God Is So High**

*Spiritual*

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**ECCT Prayer Cycle:** *St. John's, New Haven, St. Luke's, New Haven; St. Paul's & St. James, New Haven. Retirement communities, especially Armsmear; chaplains at retirement communities and Retired Clergy Chaplains*

**Worship Assistance Today:**

**Soloist:** Donna Castaner

**Lay Leader:** Nick Moore

**Lector & Intercessor:** Judith Schwerin

**Usher:** Cathy Casey

**Altar:** Cathy Casey

**Hospitality:** Mary Beth Begor and Barbara Franks

**HOSPITALITY:** Many Sundays are available. Please sign up.

*(We get the coffee going, a goody and cleanup is the requirements.)*

**SUNDAY NIGHTS- AA MEETINGS MENS GROUP- 7:30 TO 8:30**

**TUESDAY & THURSDAY-SHARON AA HAPPY HOUR-5:30 TO 6:30**

**CRAZY CRAFTERS - 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> TUESDAYS at 3:00-4:30 PM.**

**YOGA in parish hall:** Mondays at 4:30 PM, Saturdays at 10:00 AM.

Contact Nancy Causey at [njcausey48@gmail.com](mailto:njcausey48@gmail.com) if interested in joining. Each class is \$20.00.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP-William Trowbridge has organized a grounds cleanup day for Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM with pizza for lunch at Noon. Muscle, people and tools are needed.**

**Christ Church Episcopal**

**9 South Main on the Green, P.O. Box 1778, Sharon, CT 06069, 860-364-5260,  
[www.christchurchsharon.org](http://www.christchurchsharon.org) Parish Admin: [officeadmin@christchurchsharon.org](mailto:officeadmin@christchurchsharon.org)**