

**As we worship, we are folded into God's
green pastures.**

In God's great care we unite in worship.

***Hymn** “Come to My Heart” VU #661 Kirk Neville

Prayer of Approach

Waiting God,
welcome us home.
Nurturing God,
call our names.
Nourishing God,
set a table before us.
Tending God,
lead us in your way.
Companioned God,
go ahead of us.
Liberating God,
protect us.
Welcoming God,
save us.

With Jesus, we share in the ancient prayer...

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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Psalm 23

God is my shepherd

VU #747-749

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.

***Hymn**

“Saviour, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

SFGP #93

All God's Children

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

In this season of Easter, we celebrate God's most precious gift to us in Christ's dying and his rising. As we present our offering this morning, may our generosity reflect God's goodness to us and the hope we have in Christ Jesus.

Offertory

"What Can I Do?"

MV #191

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

Generous God, we thank you for all we have received from you which brings us hope and joy. Bless the gifts we bring. May they help to establish your reign of love in the world. In the name of your greatest gift, Jesus the Christ, we pray.

Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Readings

Acts 2:42-47

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

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

“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.

Anthem

“Be Still”

Walter Carver

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Holy and gracious God, shepherd of our lives, we come to you with thanksgiving for you are our provider and sustainer. You transform our weary souls with your grace, wisdom and love. You bless us each day with glimpses of resurrection and the promise of new life, in signs of spring, in stories of kindness and perseverance during crisis. Touch our hearts in surprising ways.

Listening God, shepherd of the world, we bring you now our prayers for others. Hear them in your tender mercy:

We pray for people who are struggling with illness, loneliness, grief or sadness, thinking especially of those whose lives have been redefined by COVID-19. And we pray for those whose working life has been changed drastically by this pandemic, thinking of health care workers, those in the food supply chain, and all those whose jobs have disappeared.

May each life be touched by the power of resurrection and new hope. We pray for countries and communities where it is not safe for people to live out their faith openly.

(Silence)

May all people of faith be granted the freedom to worship without fear. We pray for people in the world who are victims of discrimination and acts of hatred, and remember those unjustly blamed for the outbreak of the pandemic.

(Silence)

May your desire for justice be made known and lived out. We pray for our congregation and all people who make up your Church, forced now to consider how to be faithful in difficult times.

(Silence)

May we discover new ways to be your Easter people in the world. We pray for our families, our friends and for ourselves.

(Silence)

May each of us know the power of your compassion and promise.
Amen.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** “I Have Called You by Your Name” MV #161 Kirk Neville

***Blessing**

Into the world,
we will go with God by our side.
Into all of life,
we will go with God on our way.
Into every future,
we will go with God in every journey.
For God is waiting there for us,
and we will meet God there. Amen

Choral Benediction “Go Now in Peace” Kirk Neville

Postlude