



*Fourth Sunday of Easter
Worship
April 25, 2021
Let us worship our
Risen Lord!*

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to the gate and find the Good Shepherd within.

We need a shepherd – round us up and bring us through your Gate, O Lord.

If you're hungry or thirsty, the Good Shepherd will provide for your needs.

That is just what we need. Our souls thirst for God's word.

Come, the Gate and the Shepherd await.

OPENING PRAYER

God of all the sheep, those who remain close to you and those who stray, those who are always faithful and those who are lost: be with us today! Help us take a look at our lives and our relationship to you. Bring us close, draw us in, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

HYMN #410 God Is Calling through the Whisper

1. God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs, through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise. Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:

God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?

2. God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers, through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair. Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading:

God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?

3. God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts, through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts. Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing:

God is calling—and we hear! God is calling—and we hear!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Knowing how easy it is to wander from the paths of right living; aware of all the shadowed valleys we wander; remembering how we have failed to place our trust in God - how can we not come to God with our confessions?

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND BROKENNESS

God of wisdom, we confess the foolishness of our ways, and our failure to follow you in your paths of right relationships –with you and with others. We have gone astray; we feel lost. We have upheld our own interests first, to the detriment of others. We have failed to be generous with the poor, and abandoned our efforts to bring about justice. We feel the stains of our sins, God; have mercy on us according to your steadfast love. Wash the sinfulness out of us, and help us to live more faithfully as your servants. We seek your unfailing Lordship and ask for your guiding hand on our lives. You are the immortal, invisible One; to you be honor and glory forever; Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND BLESSING

Merciful and loving God, we thank you for never losing hope for us. When we are lost, you are there on the look-out for us, bringing us back to you like the good shepherd that you are. Your Word tells us of the joy in heaven that awaits us. May this joy flow into our lives each day, and be faithfully reflected into the world around us. Thanks be to God, our Great Shepherd. Remember: Jesus died for you. Jesus forgives you. Jesus loves you. Jesus is good to you. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON 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.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

HYMN #803

1. My shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is his name. In pastures fresh he makes me feed, beside the living streams. He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways, and leads me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

2. When I walk through the shades of death your presence is my stay; one word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away. Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread; my cup with blessings overflows; your oil anoints my head.

3. The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days; O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise. There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come; no more a stranger, or a guest, but like a child at home.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 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.

SERMON Getting Outside the Sheep Pen

RECOGNITION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of love, you abide with us; you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways. Out of gratitude for your care, we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of caring, that all may feast at the table of abundance, walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND 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 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

HYMN #187 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care. In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.

2. We are yours: in love befriends us; be the guardian of our way. Keep your flock: from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

3. You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be; you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

4. Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will. Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sunday April 25th – ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY - Join us today for Sunday school class for all ages at 11:30am on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>. For one half hour our children will be hearing stories, singing songs, engaging in activities and games about God and God's teachings.

THURSDAY EVENING STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP: 7pm on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/127591875> Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – July 19 – 23 2021, 9AM – noon. Check our Website www.forestgrovechurch.org for more information and/or go to vbspro.events/p/dp9219 to sign up. Share the information with your friends or family with children. You do not need to be a member of FGPC to attend VBS. Or call the Church office at 215-794-8575. Call Kim King 215-340-0530 or Beth Conti 267-491-5646 to volunteer.

Calendar: April 27 7PM Session - Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>
May 2 10AM Sunday Service – Our Princeton Intern Ryon Herin's – last day
Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>

In our thoughts and prayers: Su Fall, Doris Elliott, The Conner/Lang Family, Diane Dauer, Aleena Lang, Natalie Pizza, Bill Wark, Nancy Yerkes, Raymond Tinari, Dick Wright, Judy Ferguson