

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude – *The Lord's My Shepherd*

Quentin Thomas

Prayer of Preparation (*you may prepare for worship by praying silently*)

Loving God, we are the sheep of your hand, the people of your pasture. You know us; we are yours. You call us; we listen for your voice. Protect us from false leaders and hired hands who would seek to snatch us from safety. Keep us in the security of your fold and unite us with your people in all the earth. By your Spirit, make us one flock, one people; through the one who laid down his life for us, Jesus Christ, the good shepherd. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Bradley Graham

Call to Worship (responsive)

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

He lays down his life for his sheep.

Surely goodness and mercy are with us

and we will live in God's house forever.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise 239 – *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing*

* Call to Confession

The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of all hope and joy, we confess that we continue to live in fear. We speak of your great love but our own hearts condemn us. We express concern for the poor but our own actions betray us. Forgive us, God of grace. Good shepherd, restore our souls and lead us in right paths for your name's sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

Hear the good news of God's promise: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

* The Congregation's Response: *Gloria Patri* Hymn 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, amen.**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Time with Children

Miriam Crotwell

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, send us your Spirit to guide us into the truth, so that we may know and trust the good news of the gospel, and look with hope and joy for the life of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading – 1 John 3:16-24

pew Bible pg. 990

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem – *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

arr. Virgil Thomson

My Shepherd will supply my need, Jehovah is his Name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways.
He leads me for his mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace.
When I walk through the shades of death, thy presence is my stay.
One word of thy supporting breath drives all my fears away,
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread.
My cup with blessings overflows, thine oil anoints my head.
The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days,
O may thy 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.

Second Reading – John 10:11-18

pew Bible pg. 872

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon – *The Good Shepherd*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* Hymn of Thanksgiving 802 – *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (verses 1-4)

* Affirmation of Faith: Adapted from the PCUSA Study Catechism, Q. 85 (responsive)

What is the nature of resurrection hope?

Resurrection hope is a hope for the transformation of this world, not a hope for escape from it. It is the hope that evil in all its forms will be utterly eradicated, that past history will be redeemed, and that all the things that ever were will be made new. It is the hope of a new creation, a new heaven and a new earth, in which God is really honored as God, human beings are truly loving, and peace and justice reign on earth.

Prayers of the People (responsive)

In the blessed hope of the resurrection, we pray to the Lord of endless life, saying: By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for the church . . . Build us up in faith, hope, and love upon the cornerstone of Jesus Christ our Savior. Let us be a living sign of your love for all the world. By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for the world . . . Gather up the scattered peoples of the earth. Lift up the lost; deliver the weak from danger. Help our leaders shepherd the poor to safety. By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for this community . . . Translate our words of love into action. Teach those among us who have plenty to care for sisters and brothers who need our help. By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for loved ones . . . Help those who suffer; restore them, body and soul. Walk beside them through every dark valley. Feed them with mercy; anoint them with healing. By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Eternal God, show forth in us and in our world the good news of your saving power and love, so that all may believe and have life in you; through Jesus Christ, who is risen indeed. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

Invitation to Offering

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods yet refuses to help a sister or brother in need? Remembering God's great love for the world, let us offer the gifts of our lives.

Offertory – *The Good Shepherd*

Dale Wood

* The Doxology – Hymn 606

* Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Eternal God, take and use these gifts for your purpose in the world—giving food to the hungry, hope to the despairing, and new life to the dead. Teach us to live each day for you, so that future generations will know your goodness and praise your glory; in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn of Consecration 238 – *Thine Is the Glory*

* Blessing and Charge (responsive)

Beloved children, may the love of the holy triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—abide with you forever. **Alleluia!**

Now go forth in Jesus' name, remembering his new commandment to love one another, just as he has loved us. **Amen.**

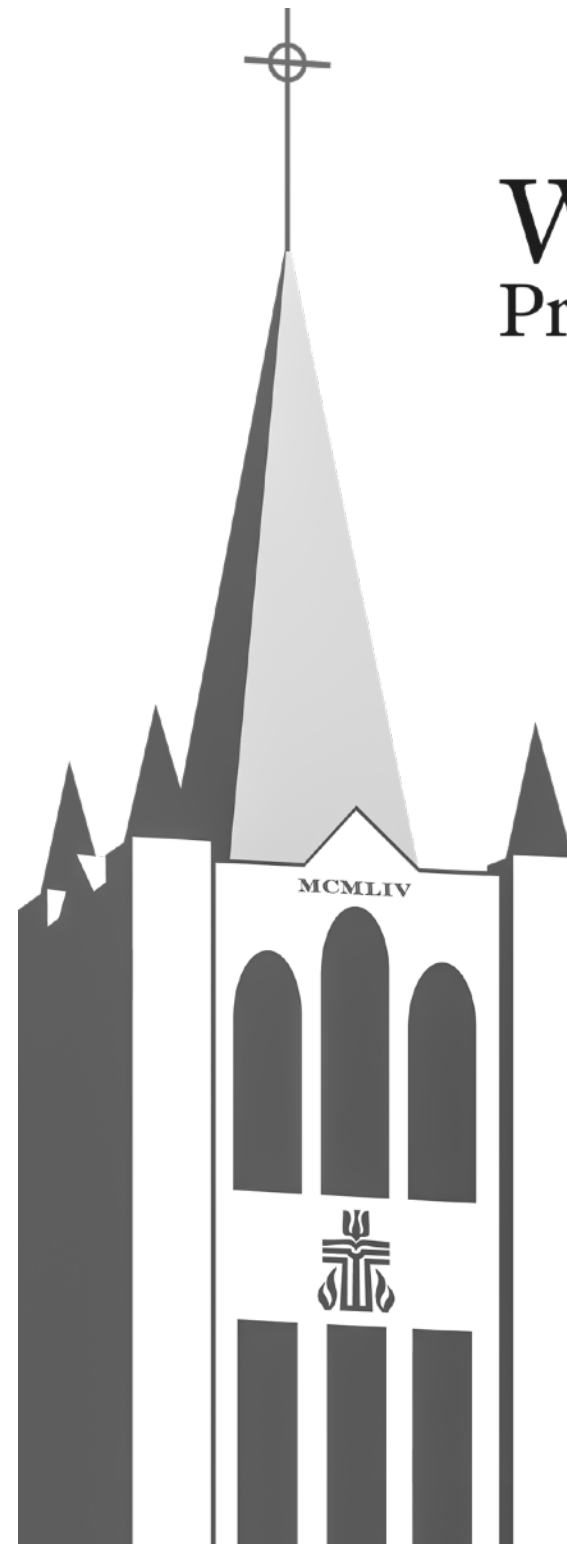
* Postlude – *Maestoso*

Andrew Fletcher

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* Please stand at the * as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold.**

The liturgy for this service was drawn from the *Book of Common Worship* (2018) and *Call to Worship Lectionary Aids for 2014-2015, Year B.*

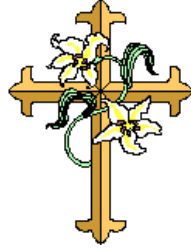


Westminster Presbyterian Church

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation—everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

II Corinthians 5:17

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PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

(* new added prayers)

Terri Banks, friend of Pam Love – at UAB with reaction to chemo

Linda Basden, neighbor of Janeil Harris – Alzheimer's

Melissa Boivin, Jan Bozeman's family friend – at home, upcoming facial cosmetic surgery

Jan Bozeman – constant pain

Margaret Breland, friend of Jan Bozeman – at home, in therapy

Janet Burke – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)

Laura Pearce Cureton, Nancy Johnson's goddaughter – nerve block therapy continues

Vida Davis, sister of Ruthie Davis – dementia

Cindy Dawson, Catherine Sampson's daughter – cancer treatment at MD Anderson

Cathy Dudley – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd) no visitors

Bill and Louise Edwards, friends of Charles Brown – strength and endurance

Teresa Ginn, Michael Ginn's aunt – dementia

Wendy Graham, Jan Bozeman's sister – at home on hospice

Kenny Harrell

Anderson Hembree, son of a friend of Nancy Johnson – prayers for successful physical therapy

Ann Johnson

Geraldine Jones

Roger Kuyrkendall, Carrie Creel's father – Alzheimer's

B.J. Lambert – pain from fracture of vertebra

Glenn Nobles – endurance and strength

Fergus Reid, Carolyn McLarnan's nephew – severe pain

Dena Faye Robertson, Glenn Nobles' sister – hospice for Alzheimer's

Zach Ross, friend of Althea Jerome – at UMMC with serious head injuries from car accident

Jeannette Russell, Janet Burke's twin sister – serious health issues

Louise Traxler, Karen Reidenbach's mom – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)

Dr. Joe Washburn, Jan Bozeman's doctor – cancer, taking chemo

Sandra Young, mother of a friend of Carolyn McLarnan – on hospice



Greeting and Announcements

Welcome to Westminster! We're very glad to see you in worship. We hope you will sense Christ's presence. If you are looking for a place to grow and serve, we'd love to tell you more about us. Please silence cell phones during the worship hour.

The **Session** will meet today at 11:35 a.m.

Circle 3 will meet today at 5:00 p.m.

Youth only will meet today from 5:00-6:30 pm. A meal will be provided.

Brown Bag will meet Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.

Choir will meet Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

All Men of the Church are invited to meet Thursday at 7:00 a.m. at Loblolly Bakery.

Today, we continue Westminster's emphasis on the PW Birthday offering. Flyers are in the bulletin. Also, be sure to check out the posters on the Sunday school room windows by the elevator and go to youtube.com/presbyterianwomen to see a video about the 2024 Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women.

High school or college students are needed to tutor reading (K-5) this summer in Hattiesburg. It is a paid position. To apply, contact Katie at kemartz@olemiss.edu. There are flyers on the table by the double doors.



It's time to stir up your favorite recipes for the **Dessert and Casserole Auction** on **Wednesday, May 1**, following dinner. The money raised goes to the youth and children trips during the summer.



To donate to WPC online, scan the QR code and follow the instructions.