

Worship on the Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 30, 2023

The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson, Designated Term Pastor

Welcome
Anderson

Dr. Rosanna

Call to Worship
23)

(based on Psalm

We rejoice in the One who leads us beside still waters,
and gives us refreshment of soul.

Christ our Shepherd shows us the way we should go,
so that the name of God will be glorified.

Though all manner of evil befall us, we will not be afraid,
for the Great Shepherd of our souls is with us.

We are never away from the love and mercy of the Lord,
and we shall be with him for ever and ever.

Prayer of the Day

God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep. Send us as shepherds to heal the injured and to feed one another with knowledge and understanding, through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen.

Hymn 315 "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. Forgive us for failing to love, ignoring your truth, and neglecting justice. Return us to the paths of righteousness through the guidance of your Spirit. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament 1 Peter 2:19 - 25

New Testament John 10:1 - 10

Sermon "The Meaning of Metaphors" Dr. Anderson

Gathering the Collection

Doxology Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Dear Lord, you are the Good Shepherd. Your Son Jesus laid down his life for all who belong to you. Thank you for tending to us with wisdom and kindness. Open our eyes to see our neighbors and anyone in need as brothers and sisters, fellow sheep of your flock. May our offerings give voice to your love for all people, especially those who may have gone astray. We pray in your holy name. Amen.

Sharing Joys and Concerns 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 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, forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn 381 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Benediction

1 Peter 2 19 "For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. 20 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. 21 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. 22 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' 23 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. 24 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. 25 For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls."

John 10 [Jesus said] 1 "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. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. 7 So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

"Whoever you are and wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here."



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