

4th Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

10:30am

Bold text indicates where the congregation joins in unison.

Call to Worship (responsive)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Jesus said: I am the good shepherd.

Christ lays down his life for the sheep.

The Lamb of God will be our shepherd;

He will guide us to the water of life.

Opening Prayer (unison)

Almighty God, you sent Jesus, our good shepherd, to gather us together. May we not wander from his flock, but follow wherever he leads us, listening for his voice and staying near him, until we are safely in your fold, to live with you forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

If we are honest with ourselves, our hearts condemn us. But God, who knows everything, is greater than our hearts; and God's deep desire for us is mercy, love, and peace. Therefore, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Lord, have mercy on us. We talk about love, but our actions betray us. We talk about love, but we neglect the poor. We talk about love, but we fail to love one another. Lord, have mercy on us. Forgive us, and abide in us by the power of your Spirit, so that our lives may show our love for Jesus Christ, in whose body we live and in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

We seek God's grace with boldness because we trust in Jesus Christ, the One who loves us and laid down his life for us. This is the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

Prayer of Illumination (unison)

Living God, by Your Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see the new light of this day; open our lips to tell of the empty tomb; open our hearts to believe the good news; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Micah, Chapter 3

And I said: Listen, you heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel! Should you not know justice?—you who hate the good and love the evil, who tear the skin off my people, and the flesh off their bones; who eat the flesh of my people, flay their skin off them, break their bones in pieces, and chop them up like meat in a kettle, like flesh in a caldron.

Then they will cry to the Lord, but he will not answer them; he will hide his face from them at that time, because they have acted wickedly.

Thus says the Lord concerning the prophets who lead my people astray, who cry "Peace" when they have something to eat, but declare war against those who put nothing into their mouths. Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision, and darkness to you, without revelation. The sun shall go down upon the prophets, and the day shall be black over them; the seers shall be disgraced, and the diviners put to shame; they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from God. But as for me, I am filled with power, with the spirit of the Lord, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.

Hear this, you rulers of the house of Jacob and chiefs of the house of Israel, who abhor justice and pervert all equity, who build Zion with blood and Jerusalem with wrong! Its rulers give judgment for a bribe, its priests teach for a price, its prophets give oracles for money; yet they lean upon the Lord and say, "Surely the Lord is with us! No harm shall come upon us." Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height.

Sermon

"God Knows"

Pastor Christina

Second in a Series, "Micah: Walk Humbly"

Prayers of Intercession

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 glory forever. Amen.

Benediction and Sending

Prayers for at Home This Week

Morning Household Prayer

Good Shepherd, walk beside me through the joy and trouble of this day, and lead in me in right paths for your name's sake. Amen.

Evening Household Prayer

Good Shepherd, remain with me in the dark and stillness of this night, and let me lie down in safety to restore my soul. Amen.