



*The Sheep follow
the Good Shepherd
because they know
his voice.*

John 10:4 NRSV

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWTON

Fourth Sunday Of Easter

10:30 AM MAY 8, 2022

**Whether we worship in person or online,
may the Spirit of God unite us
in praise and prayer,
worship and witness to the
saving love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

** indicates when to rise in body or in spirit*

*(PH denotes The Presbyterian Hymnal,
STF denotes Sing the Faith Hymnal)*

Gathering in God's Name

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

Leader: Blessing and honor is yours, O God.

People: **Glory to God forever. Alleluia!**

*Blessing and honor and glory and power,
Wisdom and riches and strength evermore
Give we to Christ who our battle has won,
Whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne.*

*Ever ascending the song and the prayer;
Ever descending the love that we share;
Blessing and honor and glory and praise—
This is the theme of the hymns that we raise.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we have strayed from your paths of right relationship and peace, and we have dishonored you, ourselves, and your creation; we repent of these hurtful ways. Forgive us, we pray, as we learn to forgive others, and guide our feet into the way of peace.

our silent prayers continue...)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God’s mercy overflows as a healing spring to cleanse us of our offenses; therefore, let us know that we are forgiven and receive new life in Christ.

People: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

In Christ, God has broken down the dividing walls between us and has bridged whatever distance separates us from God and one another.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you. (Please take a moment to greet one another from a distance.)

Listening For God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Shepherd of Souls, you call us to an abundant feast at the table of your word; open our hearts to feed on your goodness, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we might dwell evermore deeply in you. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 23

Leader: ¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

People: ²**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

Leader: ³He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

People: ⁴**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

Leader: ⁵Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine
enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

All: ⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my
life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

GOSPEL READING

John 10: 1-5, 11-18, 27-30

“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. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.” ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Hearing Voices”

Responding to God’s Word

* HYMN PH #171

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

***The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His, and He is mine forever.***

*Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul He leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.*

*Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love He sought me;
And on His shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.*

*In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.*

*Thou spreadest a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
And oh, what transport of delight from Thy pure chalice floweth!*

*And so through all the length of days, Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise within Thy house forever.*

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)**

Adapted from the Confession of Belhar

We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world. Amen.

SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD'S SERVICE

*** SUNG RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING PH #591**

*“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.”*

*** PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Going Into The World as Christ's Disciples

*** HYMN PH #388**

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

verses 1,3,4

***O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
Be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my guide.***

***O let me hear Thee speaking in accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, Thou guardian of my soul.***

***O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory there shall Thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, My Master and my friend.***

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

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**OUR WORSHIP IS ENDED.  
OUR SERVICE BEGINS!**  
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