

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 8, 2022

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Christ is our Shepherd.

P: We are Christ's sheep.

L: The Shepherd is calling us to join God's flock.

P: We will follow the Shepherd.

L: Rejoice, little ones, for none can snatch us from the Shepherd's hand.

P: In God's flock, we rest secure.

L: Come! Let us worship.

HYMN *The King of Love, My Shepherd Is*

UMH #138

**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 spreadst 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.**

OPENING PRAYER (spoken in unison)

May the world see the Shepherd living within us, and may we come to dwell in Your pastures, which remain ever green. Amen.

HYMN *He Leadeth Me*

UMH #128

**He leadeth me: O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

Refrain:

**He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.**

**Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom, sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters still, o'er troubled sea, still 'tis his hand that leadeth me. [Refrain]**

Lord, I would place my hand in thine, nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see, since 'tis my God that leadeth me. [Refrain]

And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the victory's won,
Een death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me. [Refrain]

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (spoken in unison)

Open us to the One who wipes away every tear, that we may truly rest in green pastures and drink from still waters. For You alone restore our souls. You alone meet us in our time of need. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: Trust in the words of our Shepherd: "My sheep know my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them out of My hand." Rest secure that our Shepherd loves us and lead us into life.

P: Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (spoken in 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 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. Amen.

OFFERING & DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

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 THANKSGIVING

HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth*

UMH #92

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight.
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

HEBREW LESSON

Proverbs 31: 10b-31

¹⁰ A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. ¹¹ The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. ¹² She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. ¹³ She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. ¹⁴ She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away. ¹⁵ She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant-girls. ¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷ She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong. ¹⁸ She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. ¹⁹ She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. ²⁰ She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy. ²¹ She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all her household are clothed in crimson. ²² She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple. ²³ Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land. ²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes. ²⁵ Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. ²⁶ She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. ²⁷ She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸ Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her: ²⁹ "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." ³⁰ Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. ³¹ Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

L: The Word of the Lord! **P: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Thanking God for the Women in our Lives"

Rev. Richard Baker

HYMN *Faith of Our Mothers*

tune is UMH #710

**Faith of our mothers, living still, in cradle song and bedtime prayer;
In nursery lore and fireside love, thy presence still pervades the air.
Faith of our mothers, living faith, we will be true to thee till death.**

**Faith of our mothers, loving faith, fount of our childhood's trust and grace,
Oh, may thy consecration prove source of a finer, nobler race;
Faith of our mothers, loving faith, we will be true to thee till death.**

**Faith of our mothers, guiding faith, for youthful longing, youthful doubt,
How blurred our vision, blind our way, thy providential care without.
Faith of our mothers, guiding faith, we will be true to thee till death.**

**Faith of our mothers, Christian faith, in truth beyond our stumbling creeds,
Still serve the home and save the Church, and breathe thy spirit through our deeds;
Faith of our mothers, Christian faith, we will be true to thee till death**

BENEDICTION

L: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit rest on each of you as you serve God and God's creation in this world.

P: Amen.

SENDING SONG *Celtic Alleluia*

TFWS #2043

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Now he is living the Christ, out of the tomb he has risen.
He has conquered death, open heaven to all believers.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**