

DATE April 25, 2021 THEME Growing Faith: Sheep of One Flock

God's People Gather

Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus the good shepherd

People: The one who tends us, guides us into green pastures, and by still waters.

Leader: Jesus knows our names, and we know his.

People: He bends to heal us; travels through the deepest valleys with us; gave up everything for us all.

Leader: Jesus is the good shepherd

People: The one whose rod and staff comfort us; whose strength and love holds us.

Leader: The cup of love runs over!

People: And we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever

Leader: We are gathered as God's people in God's love for God's world

ALL: Let us worship God!

Opening Song

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

The King of love my Shepherd is,

Who goodness faileth never:

I nothing lack if I am His

And He is mine forever.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,

But yet in love He sought me,

And on His shoulder gently laid,

And home, rejoicing brought me.

And so through all the length of days

Thy goodness faileth never;

Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise

Within Thy house forever.

Call to Confession

The scripture reminds us that all of us, like sheep, go astray, wandering off with our own plans and desires. Thanks be to God that our Good Shepherd gathers us up again, to restore us and keep us safe. Trusting in his mercy, we pray together our prayer of confession:

Prayer of Confession

God of wisdom, we confess our failure to follow you in your paths of right relationships – with you and with others. You call us to grow as your flock, but we have gone astray; we feel lost. Too often, we have attended only to our own interests. Too often, we have failed to be generous with the poor, and abandoned our efforts to bring about justice. Forgive us, God, and restore us to you, so that we may grow as faithful disciples, sheep of your flock.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news. When we are lost, our loving Shepherd is on the look-out for us, bringing us back to community and connection. May the joy of growing in faith flow into our lives each day, and be faithfully reflected into the world around us. Thanks be to God, our Great Shepherd.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Response

Peace Song

Peace I leave with you my friends

Shalom my peace in all you do

Peace I leave with you my friends

I give to you so you can give to others too.

God's Word is Proclaimed

Children's Time

Scripture Reading John 10:11-18

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The 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. 13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I 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. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 18 No 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."

Sermon

Responding to God's Word

Offering

If you are able, please continue to send in your offering and pledge. If you are enrolled in electronic funds transfer, there is no need to do anything different. If you would like to give online using Paypal, click this link: bit.ly/FPCsterling

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, through Jesus Christ the good shepherd, who laid down his life for us, you have given us all things. We bring these gifts as signs of our thankfulness. Make our lives a testimony to the new life we have in you. We pray in the name of the one you raised from the dead, our Risen Lord Jesus. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

God's People are Sent

Closing Song

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High
Lord, I lift Your name on high,

Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
I'm so glad You're in my life,
I'm so glad You came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth
to show the way,
From the earth to the cross
my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave,
from the grave to the sky,
Lord, I lift Your name on high.

Lord, I lift Your name on high,
Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
I'm so glad You're in my life,
I'm so glad You came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth
to show the way,
From the earth to the cross
my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave,
from the grave to the sky,
Lord, I lift Your name on high.

Benediction

Leader:....and let all God's people say...

People: Alleluia! Amen!