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*The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee, Bishop*

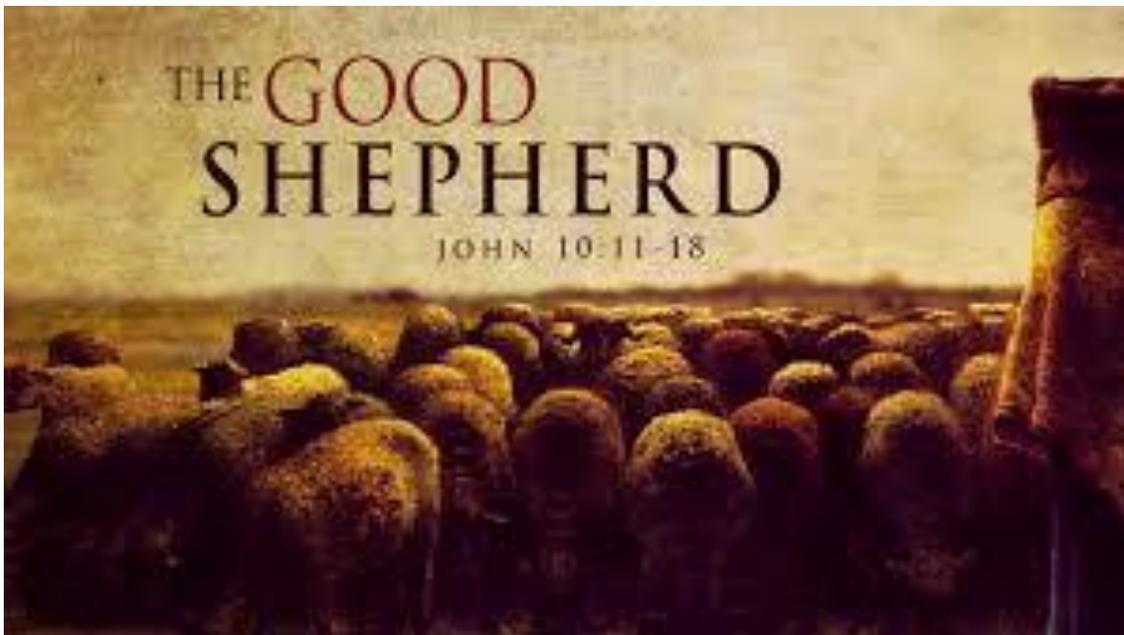
*The Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher, Interim Priest*

***“Together in Christ  
we seek to love God and  
to love and serve all others”***

April 25, 2021

Easter 4

### Sunday Virtual Worship Service



#### **WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ADVENT**

*We recognize that we worship on the traditional lands of Coast Salish peoples. We commit ourselves to continue with our First Nations neighbours on the journey of healing, truth and reconciliation.*

*Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher presides & preaches.*

*Organ prelude - Nell Howard*

## **THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

**Welcome:** Christ is risen! Alleluia! Good morning, and welcome to this service of worship on the Fourth Sunday of Easter. My name is Paul Schumacher, and I am the interim priest-in-charge during this time of transition, here at the Church of The Advent.

As we meet today, we begin by remembering the Songhees and Esquimalt nations, on whose traditional land we now gather in gratitude. We acknowledge their story and their stewardship of the land and water, the plants, and animals, through the many generations.

As we meet today, we remember those who have called this place their home in recent years—the community of faith known as Church of the Advent. Let us greet one another with words and signs of welcome.

Come, come with your doubts, your strengths, your weaknesses, and your fears, for God loves us all and all are welcome in this space. We invite you to come and join our readers, prayer leaders, music director and choir members, along with our technical team, as we offer prayer and praise to our Creator.

**Scripture Sentence of the Day:** Scripture shares with us, “I am the good shepherd, says the Lord: I know my own and my own know me.”

### **Opening Hymn: VU 273 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”**

(Text: Henry Williams Baker {1868}. Music: Ancient Irish Melody, arr. Charles Villiers Stanford {1906} © Arrangement used by permission of Oxford University Press) verses 1, 2, 5, 6

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.

Thou spread’st a table in my sight, thy unction grace bestoweth,  
And O 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!

### **Greeting:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
And the love of God,  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
Be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Act of Praise:** *A Prayer from the Lutheran prayer book.*

O Lord Jesus, **you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with God, our creator, and the Holy Spirit, our comforter, now and forever. Amen.**

**Collect of the Day:** O God of peace, **who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do your will. Work in us, that which is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED**

**Chat @ the Chancel:**

**Song:** MV 121 “Hey Now, Singing Hallelujah”

(Words and Music: Linnea Good 1998. Words and music © 1998 Borealis Music, used by permission.)

***Refrain:***

***Hey now! Singing hallelujah!***

***Hey now! The morning has come!***

***Hey now! Singing hallelujah!***

***The tomb was empty at the rising sun.***

Jesus loved the people and they said he was king,  
Hey now, the tomb was empty.  
He turned all the tables on everything.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty. ***Refrain***

Jesus had power and they took him away.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty.  
They nailed him to a cross and they killed him one day.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty. ***Refrain***

Jesus loves people and he lives again.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty.  
Calls us disciples and he calls us his friends.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty. ***Refrain***

**Psalm:** 23 (BAS Pg. 731)

1 The Lord is my shepherd; \* I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \* and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul \* and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \* for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \* you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \* and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**Second Reading:** 1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

For the Word of God is scripture,  
For the Word of God is among us,  
For the Word of God is within us,

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn of the Day:** G 786 "Heart of a Shepherd"

(Text: Refrain – Rory Cooney {1952-} © 2005, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.; verses Psalm 23, The Grail, © 1963, 1993, The Grail, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.; translated by Ronald F. Krisman {1946-}, © 2010, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Tune: Refrain and verses arr., Rory Cooney, {1952 -}, © 2005, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.; verses melody, Joseph Gelineau, SJ {1920-2008}, © 1963, 1993, The Grail, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.)

***Refrain:***

***If you love me, feed my lambs,***

***Be my heart, my voice, my hands.***

***If you love me, feed my sheep.***

***And for my part, I give you the heart of a shepherd.***

Lord, you are my shepherd,  
There is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures

Where you give me repose.  
Near restful waters you lead me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.

***Refrain***

You guide me along the right path,  
You are true to your name.  
If I walk in the valley of darkness  
No evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff,  
With these you give me comfort.

***Refrain***

You have prepared a banquet for me  
In the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil,  
My cup is overflowing.

***Refrain***

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
All the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
Forever and ever.

***Refrain***

**Gospel:** John 10:11-18

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John**.

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason, the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 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.'

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Sermon:** Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher

**Affirmation of Faith:**

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**Prayers of the People - April 25, 2021**

I will end each petition with: "Holy and Compassionate God." Please respond with: "**Hear Our Prayers.**"

Lord, we have become too busy: too busy for you, too busy for us, too busy for those who need us. Gather the fragments of our scattered selves. Help us to discern what is important and what is expendable. We are overwhelmed and lose sight of utter simplicity: Show us how to let go – to give up control—that you might draw and bend and mould and carry us, Lord, in your goodness and incomprehensible love for us that we may be now and ever one in you.

Loving Lord and Creator of all thank you for this wonderful day. Thank you for our families and friends. Please Bless all of us with Peace within our hearts and our homes.

"Holy and Compassionate God,"

**"Hear Our Prayers."**

Heavenly Father, thank you for the miracles You perform on our behalf. Help us remember You are capable of doing the inexplicable. Heavenly Father we pray for those who have asked us to pray for them. We also pray for those who have no one to pray for them. You know what is in their hearts Lord. Only You know what each of them needs. We pray for Bill, Christopher, Dianne, Sheila, Barb, Jamie, Dimas, and any others you wish to name either out loud or silently

in your hearts. We ask that you hold them in Your healing hands. Let them know they are loved and wrap them in the love that is You.

“Holy and Compassionate God,”  
“**Hear Our Prayers.**”

May the love of God watch over you. May the peace of Christ fill your heart. May the presence of the Holy Spirit fill you and speak to you in your dreams. **Amen.**

**Confession and Absolution:** Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them into his grace. Let us confess our sins, confident in God’s forgiveness.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

And now, may Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

**The Lord’s Prayer:** And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray...

**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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Blessing:**

May the peace of God which passes all understanding,  
Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God, our Creator,  
Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, And the Holy Spirit, our Comforter.  
And may the blessing of the God the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you  
this day and forever more. **Amen.**

## **Shared Ministry:**

### **Commissioning Hymn: VU 424 “May the God of Hope”**

(Text: verse 1 Alvin Schutmaat [1984] ©Public Domain; and verse 2 Fred Kaan [1993] © Hope publishing Company for the USA and Canada, Music: Argentine Folk Melody)

May the God of hope go with us every day,  
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.

#### ***Refrain***

***Praying, let us work for peace,  
Singing, share our joy with all,  
Working for a world that is new,  
Faithful when we hear Christ’s call.***

May the God of healing free the earth from fear,  
Freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.  
May the God of love keep our commitment clear  
To a world restored to human life renewed.

#### ***Refrain***

**Commissioning:** Almighty God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified. Receive the prayers offered by your people for all those who in their vocation and ministry are devoted to serve in your church and throughout all creation. Grant them grace to continue in the work you have given to your faithful followers to share your gift of love, through Jesus Christ, Our Saviour and King, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. **Alleluia. Amen.**

**TODAY WE PRAY**

*Pray for The Nippon Sei Ko Kai*

*Pray for Ansley our Diocesan Administrator, Anna our Bishop,  
& Paul our Interim Priest-In-Charge.*

*Pray for S. Andrew, Sidney & Diocese of Caledonia.*

*In the Selkirk Region for S. Michael & All Angels, Royal Oak.*

**FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED US TO PRAY FOR THEM**

*Christopher, Dianne, Rick & Barb, Sheila, Barb, Jaimie,*

*Dimas, Joan, Barb, Carol Ann, Garry, Bill, & Lorraine.*

*We also pray for those we remember in the quiet of our own hearts.*