



Image: Steve Larsy

Easter IV
Good Shepherd Sunday
April 25, 2021 + 4pm

Welcome to the AbbeyChurch

No matter who you are or what you are carrying today,
know you are beloved and so very welcome here!

At the AbbeyChurch, we tell stories of faith, encourage
hope, share meals, care for each other and for God's
creation – and strive to practice the teachings of Jesus.

We're at different places in our faith journey - but we
share a guiding sacred Story as found in scripture (The
Bible) and summarized in ancient Christian creeds.

We share a willingness to honestly wrestle with God, and
with our questions and doubts.

We invite diversity in our community and our leadership;
old, young, rich, poor, conservative, liberal, radical, single,
married, LGBTQ2IA+, straight, evangelical, progressives,
overeducated, undereducated, overhoused, underhoused,
certain, doubting, hurting, thriving (to name a few).

We believe that Christ's love binds our differences together
in unity as we gather each week at Jesus' table of
welcome.

*The AbbeyChurch worships, prays, plays and gathers on
the traditional and unceded lands of the Songhees and
Esquimalt Nations.*

*Come as you are, a joyful resurrection people ... basking in
hope!*

Tolling of the Bells

Welcome and Land Acknowledgment

Bell x 3

Opening Responses

(Jesus says) I am the Good Shepherd and I know my sheep. My sheep recognize and listen to my voice. I know them and they follow Me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish.

Lord, You are my Shepherd. I shall not want.

(God Says) When you were scattered, I sought you out to deliver you from places of chaos, devastation, panic, and fear.

Oh God, you are my Shepherd. I shall not want. You are my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear: You are the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?

(Jesus Says) I am the Good Shepherd. You shall not hunger or thirst, neither shall the heat nor the sun strike you down. For in mercy I will lead you and by springs of water I will guide you.

You make me to lie down in green pastures. You lead me by still waters.

(Jesus says) I am the Lamb in the midst of the throne. I will tend you, shepherd you, lead you to living fountains of water. I shall wipe away all tears from your eyes.

You are my Shepherd. I shall not want.

(Jesus says) There is a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God. And I say come. You who are thirsting..... come!

you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over. 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.*

Reflection Song: He Shall Feed His Flock

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd;
and He shall gather the lambs with His arm,
and carry them in His bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young. (Isaiah 40:11)
Come unto Him, all ye that labour,
come unto Him that are heavy laden,
and He will give you rest.

Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him,
for He is meek and lowly of heart,
and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (Matthew 11:28-29)

From *Messiah*, George Frideric Handel, 1741 / Public Domain

Poem *Let Us Love* written by Benjamin Hertwig

Let us love like the river, with movement and presence and motion.
Let us pray like the lamb, unashamed at the sound of our voices.
Let us watch like the shepherd,
with care for the wounded and wondering.
Let us grieve like clouds over ocean, where salt and freshwater meet.
Let us lay down and rest like the seed,
welcoming the sacred darkness of soil.
Let us hope like the forest that burns,
with sadness for the flame
and trust in the ash for renewal.

The Readings

Psalm 23: My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

My Shepherd will supply my need:
Jehovah is His Name;
In pastures fresh He makes me feed,
Beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back
When I forsake His ways,
And leads me, for His mercy's sake,
In paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death,
Thy presence is my stay;
A word of Thy supporting breath
Drives all my fears away.
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes,
Doth still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows,
Thine oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days;
O may Thy house be my abode,
And all my work be praise!
There would I find a settled rest,
While others go and come;
No more a stranger, nor a guest,
But like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts; Tune: RESIGNATION, American Folk Melody. Public Domain.

**Second Reading: Let us Love - Inspired by 1 John 3:16-24,
written by Elsa Anders Cook. From The Work of the People**

Let us prepare our hearts to hear the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation: Jesus, Let Your Kingdom Come

Hallelu, Hallelujah! Jesus, let your kingdom come! x2

May the works of my hands bring You joy. x2

Hallelu, Hallelujah! Jesus let your kingdom come! X4

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The Gospel

Chivonne Graff

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO JOHN (10:11-18)**

Jesus said, "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.**

We repeat the gospel acclamation.

Sermon

Meagan Crosby-Shearer, EC

Bell / Silence / Bell

The Creed

I believe in God, the Maker Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 heav'n,
and it seated at the right hand of the Maker.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy cath'lic,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
A-----men.

Ryan Flanigan/ Liturgical folk/ CCLI

Our Prayers

Roxy Humphrey, EC

The Peace

The peace of the risen Christ be with you all!

And also with you!

Offertory Song: I Come with Joy

I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here.

Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian Wren; Music: LAND OF REST, American traditional

Prayer Over The Gifts

God of loving care, you spread before us the table of life,
and give us the cup of salvation to drink. Receive all we offer
you this day and make of us your new creation that we may
love with your self giving love and be carried in the arms of
Jesus our shepherd. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, how wonderful is the work of your hands...
...and a justice that would never fail.

Glory to you forever and ever.

Through countless generations your people hungered for the
bread of freedom... ...and join with heaven and earth in the
hymn of unending praise:

**Holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.**

While Jesus was eating with his disciples,
he took a loaf of bread,
and after blessing it, broke it, gave it to them, and said,
“Take, this is my body.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

Glory to you forever and ever.

As supper was ending, Jesus took the wine
and after blessing it, poured it,
gave it to them and said,
take, this is my blood,
do this in remembrance of me.

Glory to you forever and ever.

Holy God we give you thanks for the mystery of faith given to us
in Jesus your Child:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

...be gathered and made one in your love. Amen

As beloved children of a loving parent, let us pray... *(this may
be said in a language or paraphrase of your choice, or as below):*

Our Father, (or Parent/Source, if you prefer)

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. Amen.

Silence.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God given for the life
of the world. Feed on the risen Christ in your hearts through
faith with thanksgiving! Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

Communion Song: Greenwater (aka Stillwater)

The Lord is my Shepherd - Leads me beside still water *(repeat)*

Even though I walk through the dark night

I will not fear death - You know my troubled voice

And you will lead me - You will lead me home

Tom Wuest / Brass Trumpet Publishing / CCLI

Prayer after Communion

Loving God, your Son, our Shepherd, made himself known in broken bread and self-giving love. Remember us, separated by pandemic, but united by faith in the body of the risen Christ; May those who see this celebration of the Eucharist know the presence of Christ in heart, mind and body. Sustain us in our isolation by the power of your Spirit, that we may practice resurrection in your new creation. **Amen.**

Closing Song: Out of You Great Love

Chorus: Out of Your Great Love You picked me up
Set my feet on a sturdy rock
Out of Your Great Love I've learned the meaning of
Salvation out of Your Great Love

I had gone astray, I had lost my way
When I called upon Your name.
Then You rescued me and now the song I sing,
What a Loving God you are! *Chorus*

Now I shout Your praise through all my days
For Your endless mercy and grace.
There's no other one who has greater love.
With joy I will ever say. *Chorus*
1995 B. Franklin/T. Franklin, alt. / Tylis Music / CCLI

The Sending

You have risen O Christ. Let all creation greet the good news with a jubilant shout!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Go now with your trust in the good shepherd,
and let us love, not just in words, but in truth and action.
And may God be at your side, even in valleys of death.
May Christ Jesus be the cornerstone of your life.
And may the Holy Spirit abide in you and tend you with love
and mercy all the days of your life.

Go from here renewed and strong, Weep with those who weep. Rejoice with those who celebrate. Tell the story of hope, that Christ is risen from the dead. Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!

Bell x 3



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