

# Living Out God's Call To Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church  
McAllen, Texas  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
April 21, 2024



John August Swanson  
*Psalm 23*

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## Opening Sentences

- Jesus said: I am the good shepherd. Christ lays down his life for the sheep.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

## Prelude

## Call to Worship

*Please rise in body or in spirit for the Call to Worship.*

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

**He lays down his life for his sheep.**

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

**He knows us, and we belong to him.**

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

**He speaks, and we listen for his voice.**

## Hymn

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us. v. 1-2

GG #187

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.

In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.

We are yours; in love befriend us; be the guardian of our way.

Keep your flock; from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, bless your people.

Give us your peace, your help, and your love,  
for we are the sheep of your pasture.

Let us be united in your peace –

one in the Body, one in the Spirit,

and one in the hope of our calling,

all through the gift of your endless grace. Amen.

based on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century Liturgy of St. Mark.

## Call to Confession

We come before God not as despised sinners,  
but as beloved children.

With the confidence of God's beloved,  
let us confess our need for God's grace.

### Prayer of Confession

**Good shepherd, seek me out,  
and bring me again to your fold.  
Smile upon me with your favor,  
that I may dwell in your house  
all the days of my life,  
and praise your name forever. Amen.**

based on a prayer of Jerome (c. 342-420)

*A moment of silent prayer.*

### Declaration of Forgiveness

All of us, like sheep, have gone astray,  
but the shepherd and guardian of our souls  
finds us and returns us to safety.

So hear and trust the good news of the Gospel:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, healed, and made whole.**

**Thanks be to God!**

### Act of Praise

The Day of Resurrection, v. 3

GG #233

Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin;  
the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.

Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.

### Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord be with you all. / **And also with you.**

### Life of the Church

#### Prayer for Illumination

*As we prepare to hear God's word proclaimed,  
let us pray for illumination.*

Lord God, good shepherd,  
by the leading of your Spirit,  
help us to listen for your voice  
and follow in your paths  
all the days of our lives;  
in Jesus' name. Amen.



Sadao Watanabe  
*Good Shepherd*

## Responsive Reading from the Psalms

## Psalm 23 (The Message)

*Please join in a responsive reading of Psalm 23, using Eugene Peterson's translation from The Message.*

God, my shepherd!

I don't need a thing.

**You have bedded me down in lush meadows,  
you find me quiet pools to drink from.**

True to your word, you let me catch my breath  
and send me in the right direction.

**Even when the way goes through Death Valley,  
I'm not afraid when you walk at my side.**

Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure.

**You serve me a six-course dinner  
right in front of my enemies.**

You revive my drooping head;  
my cup brims with blessing.

**Your beauty and love chase after me  
every day of my life.**

**I'm back home in the house of God for the rest of my life.**



Psalm 23 in Hebrew

## Anthem

## Gospel Reading

John 10:11-18

[Jesus said] "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."

The Word of the Lord / **Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

## Response to the Word

**Good shepherd, guide and guardian,  
you call us to live the love you have shown us,  
not with words or speech,  
but with action and truth;  
you call us to show your love in our deeds.  
As sheep of your pasture,  
may we be a flock known for our love and our  
gratitude.  
Called to be your church,  
may we be shepherds of your mercy  
and agents of your grace. Amen.**



Kelly Latimore  
*Good Shepherd*

## Hymn      My Shepherd Will Supply My Need      GG #803

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, your presence is my stay;  
one word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.  
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;  
my cup with blessings overflows; your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;  
O may your 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 or a guest, but like a child at home.

## Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

With boldness, let us offer our prayers  
to the shepherd of our souls, saying,  
God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church in every place ...  
Gather us together and make us one,  
one in ministry and mission to the world,  
so that there will be one flock, one shepherd.  
God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world ...  
Anoint all leaders with your wisdom  
so that they will use their power  
to help the poor and defend the vulnerable.  
God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community ...  
Strengthen those who work each day  
to heal the sick, welcome the outcasts,  
and help sisters and brothers in need.  
God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for friends and loved ones ...  
Comfort all who are suffering;  
walk with them through dark valleys  
and restore them, body, mind, and soul.  
God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, by the power of your Spirit,  
help us to keep your commandments  
and to love one another with the love of Jesus,  
in whose holy name we pray. Amen.

Let us pray together as Christ has taught us, saying:  
**Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

### Time with the Younger Church

#### Invitation to the Offering

The good shepherd calls us to love one another  
by using what we have been given  
to care for the spirit, mind, and body of our neighbor.  
Let us give generously for the work of God's kingdom.

#### Offertory

Act of Dedication                      Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks, v. 4                      GG #240

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.*

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.*

Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior.

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.*

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.*

## Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, we give you thanks  
that you have shown us the meaning of love  
through Jesus Christ, who gave his life for us.  
Show us how to share Christ's love  
by giving our lives for one another;  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

## Hymn

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

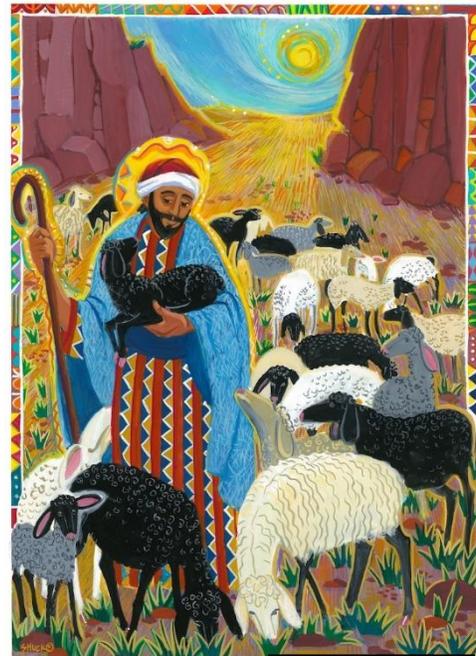
GG #542

God be with you till we meet again;  
loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you:  
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;  
unseen wings protecting hide you,  
daily manna still provide you:  
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;  
when life's perils thick confound you,  
put unfailing arms around you:  
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;  
keep love's banner floating o'er you;  
smite death's threatening wave before you:  
God be with you till we meet again.



Vicki Shuck  
*Good Shepherd*

## Charge and Benediction

### Congregational Response

Hallelujah! *refrain*

GG #538

*Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.*

*Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.*

## Postlude

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### **Today's Worship Leaders:**

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell

Joe Massey

Robert Garza

Ale Pacheco

FPC Chancel Choir