



May 3, 2020
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

www.greenfieldcharge.org, God Is Still Speaking

Lay Speaker
Mrs. Wendy Farber

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Services Canceled
Online Only
4th Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

Sunday Morning Prayer

Our Lord and Savior, as we continue to celebrate the resurrection of your son, may we try to focus on the happier times that it represents as we continue to suffer thru our confinement and are unable to celebrate you as a community of faith believers. Lest we not forget that you are the ultimate power that we should be answering to. Lord, please help us relieve our hearts of all the anxious foreboding that they have been filled with. Please lift up in prayer the families of those that were called up to their eternal resting place. And all God's children said, AMEN.

Call to Worship

(after Psalm 23)

Let us pray these familiar words,
recognizing in the Risen Christ our Good Shepherd:

**Jesus, you are our shepherd.
We shall never want.**

**You make us lie down in green pastures;
you lead us beside the still waters.
You restore our souls.**

You guide us in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake.

Even though we may walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we fear no evil, for you, Christ, comfort us.

**Jesus has prepared a table for us
in the presence of our foes;
Jesus has anointed us with the oil of salvation;
our cup runs over!**

**Surely, goodness and mercy will follow us
all the days of our lives,
And we will dwell in the house
of our Holy Savior forever and ever. Amen.**

Opening Hymn

“Blessed Assurance”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6njRO3-Kieo>

Gathering Prayer

Incarnate God,

You are the one who comes to us in Jesus Christ.

Holy One,

You are the one who comes to us in the Holy Spirit.

Sovereign of Earth and Heaven,

You are the one who calls us to recognize you today and every day

As splendid *Mystery*.

Gather our hearts and minds this day.

Kindle our God-consciousness.

Let us worship you in awe and wonder!

Prayer of Confession

Merciful and Loving God, we ask forgiveness

because our consciousness of you

is dimmed by everyday desires and needs.

Raise our consciousness of you, O God.

We forget that we are a reflection of your image.

We act as though you are a Sunday-only event.

Increase our mindfulness of you, O God.

Help us to a greater common awareness

of your deep mystery and infinite presence.

Rouse our awareness of you, God.

Open our eyes from surface focus to depth perception.

Turn our heads from shallow concerns to eternal truths.

Awaken us from faint-heartedness, O God.

Forgive us for our narrow and selfish ways.

Save us from cheap grace with your amazing grace.

Forgive us, O God.

We ask in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Holy, Forgiving God, we are your sheep.

You keep us awake and aware.

You can increase our God-consciousness every day of our lives.

Bless you and praise you for forgiving us
when we are barely mindful enough to ask.

Help us to enter by the door
when we hear the voice of the Good Shepherd.

We hear your voice of pardon.

Through Christ's grace we are forgiven this morning, and we go
in. **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47 NIV

The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25 NIV

¹⁹ For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²² “He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” ²⁵ For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Meditation Hymn “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_gdg4ndGhc

The Reading of the Holy Gospel

John 10:1-10 NIV

Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)

The Good Shepherd and His Sheep

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

This is the Gospel of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gloria Patri

Children's Message

See the Children's Bulletin titled '*The Shepherd and His Flock*'

Today's Message

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLvyjLKKqDc&t=7s>

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic/Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Sung Response

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

Closing Hymn

"He Leadeth Me"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jy8EEOCa534>

Benediction

(from 1 Peter and John 10)

You are called for a purpose:
for the sake of knowing and drawing close toward God
a person bears up under sorrows.

We are not here by chance.

You are choice and precious in the sight of God,
and as living stones, your lives are being built up
into a spiritual sanctuary where the justice and mercy and peace
of the Risen Christ may dwell.

We are not here by chance.

Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them,
and they follow me;
and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish;
and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Jesus, we are the sheep of your pasture.

You have chosen us. We have chosen you.

We are not here by chance. Amen

Three-Fold Amen

Greenfield Charge Prayer List

<i>Family of Tubby B</i>
<i>Joel C</i>
<i>Ellen P</i>
<i>Our HealthCare Workers</i>