

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GATHERING PRAYER:

Begin this Sunday's worship with a time of silence. Our lives are far noisier than wind, fire, or earthquake. In a great paradox, God speaks to us in sheer silence. Use this chance to listen as you pray.

Wellspring of eternal life, we come to you this day having drunk deeply the waters of anxiety and despair. Bring to us your living water. Quench our thirsting souls, for we offer this prayer in Your Name. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ As our "Good Shepherd", Jesus practiced "love" math and invites us to do likewise. "Love math" is very different from that of the world. In the world majority, or wealth, or power or tradition or personal comfort guide our actions. With "love" math, actions are determined by great need.
- ❖ This is indeed wonderful news when we are the "lost sheep". But what about when we are one of the "99"? To follow Jesus is to celebrate with devotion and thanksgiving the fact that we are safely held in God's care. But it is also about how we let Jesus' voice shape our actions, attitudes and opinions in the world around us. We are indeed our sibling's keepers.

PRAISE SONG: "All My Relatives" (music at end of bulletin)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd.

People: I shall not want.

Leader: In love, it is God who guides me.

People: In love, it is Jesus who shows me the way. Leader: In love, God cares for us in good times and bad.

People: In love, God's Spirit sustains us our whole life long.

Leader: And this is how we know of God's love,

People: God's love is shown in the death and resurrection of our Lord.

Leader: In the same way, beloved, let us love one another,

People: because love is from God.

Leader: Whoever does not love does not know God,

People: for God is love.

Leader: God is love and those who abide in love abide in God,

People: and God abides in them.

OUR CONFESSION:

All: Good Shepherd, we have resisted your loving call, preferring to go our own way, wandering from truth, hoping for what we want, and failing to see what you offer. We find it hard to admit our need, confess our faults, and return to you. Pride and self-interest get in the way.

Remind us again that you long to gather us together and forgive us, bless us, strengthen, and encourage us. Let us be humble enough to come to you this day and always. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

One: Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: We are loved, forgiven, strengthened and renewed.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE CONFESSION RESPONSE "I Come to the Cross" (music at end of bulletin)

THE LESSONS: Psalm 23 (Responsively)

One: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

All: God makes me lie down in green pastures;

One: God leads me beside still waters;[a]

All: God restores my soul.

One: God leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

All: Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

One: I fear no evil,

All: for you are with me;

One: your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

All: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

One: you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

One: and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

John 10:11-18

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep 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 are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. The

y too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

MESSAGE: "Sheep or 'Sheeple" - Pastor Cristy Schoob

MESSAGE RESPONSE: "Leftover People in Leftover Places"

(music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT:

Leader: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader: Now, as you leave this place, may the Lord help us: follow Jesus' way, see and

celebrate God's presence everywhere, and love our neighbors as we love

ourselves. In the name of Christ.

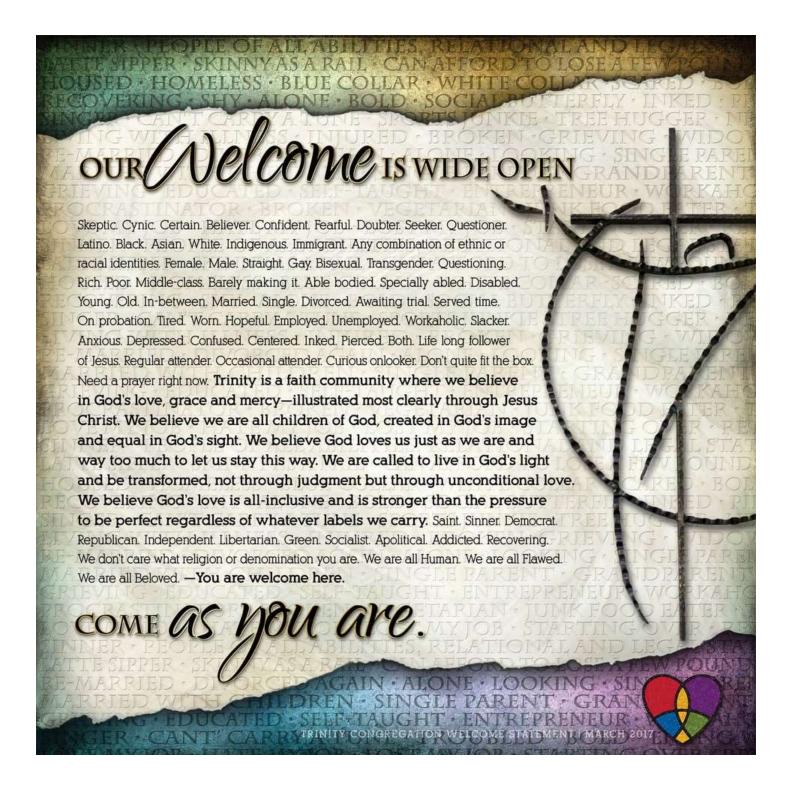
All: Amen!

THE SENDING SONG: "Let the Walls Fall Down" (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



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I Come to the Cross



