

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

4th Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Providing God,
in our journey of faithfulness,
we graze in the pastures you lead us to each day.
As we move along,
our steps may seem aimless,
yet you keep watch and never leave.
When we are tired,
you prepare for us a table.
When we are thirsty,
your cup of goodness and mercy overflows.
When we are lost,
you seek us out.
And oh, how our hearts leap when you call to us,
for we know your voice and feel your love.
Dearest God, we are so grateful
that your staff of righteousness leads us home. **Amen.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Preludio

Giovanni Bolzoni

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Vince Leseney

We come to God, our holy shepherd,
as we come to a green meadow.

**God prepares a place for us,
and we give glory in God's presence.**

How excellent is this dwelling place
under the eyes of God's care.

**We turn to God in joy.
Our good shepherd provides for all our needs.**

*SONG OF PRAISE

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Hymnal, No. 394

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**O God, you have called us to love,
not in word or speech, but in truth and action.**

**You have laid down your life for us
and commanded us to lay down our lives for one another.**

**Still, O Lord, we offer empty thoughts and prayers
when the world needs our hands and our feet.**

**Still, O Lord, we fail to share our lives with the world,
hiding behind a myth of independence.**

**Forgive us, we pray, and by your forgiveness,
raise us to new life in you.**

(Time of silent reflection)

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

*THE PEACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Glory To God

Hymnal, No. 582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,

And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,

And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

World without end, without end. Amen (x3)

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Charlotte Lovett

SCRIPTURE READING

I John 3:16-24

Page No. 990

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalms 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff— they comfort me.**

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my
head with oil; my cup overflows.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall
dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:11-18

Page No. 872

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Shepherd Jesus

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

Though I May Speak

Hymnal, No. 693

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Col. 1:15–20

**New life in Christ takes shape in a community
in which people know
that God loves and accepts them
in spite of what they are.**

**They therefore accept themselves
and love others,**

**knowing that no one has any ground
on which to stand,
except God's grace.**

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.22

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Response: ...By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 35

*Please pray the Lord's Prayer
in the language and wording most familiar to you.*

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymnal, No. 606

*DEDICATION PRAYER

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG

Help Us Accept Each Other

Hymnal, No. 754

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

Fanfare for Organ

Gordon Young

*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for April 28: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8.

The Food & Shelter items of the month for April are juice & handheld can openers. **Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.**

Hearing-assistance devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation 394



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, laud and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come, with all your lov - ing - kind - ness;
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, laud and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as we pray, and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Though I May Speak

693

The Gift of Love



1 Though I may speak with brav - est fire,
2 Though I may give all I pos - sess,
3 Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol;



and have the gift to all in - spire,
and striv - ing so my love pro - fess,
our spir - its long to be made whole.



and have not love, my words are vain,
but not be given by love with - in,
Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;



as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

Help Us Accept Each Other 754



1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,



teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace,
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:



we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!