

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – April 26, 2020
Third Sunday of Easter
Join us on You Tube!

Greeting

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

Sisters and brothers, let us gather together
with glad and generous hearts.

For many signs and wonders are being done among us.

Our God is alive and real and at work in the world.

We can see God at work in our lives, too.

Let us give what we can to all who have need,

so that all people, no matter who they are, may know the love of God.

Come, holy people, sheep of God's own fold, let us worship God.

We give praise to Jesus, our risen Lord, the Great Shepherd of the sheep.

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

Friends, the Lord is our Shepherd. So let us have no fear,
but confess our sin so that God may restore our souls.

Let us pray together.

Prayer of Confession [*together*]

Living and loving God,

**We confess that we do not always follow Jesus,
but prefer instead to go our own way.**

We look out mostly for ourselves, and we leave others behind.

Have mercy on us and show us your better way.

**Keep us on the right path – for our salvation,
for the well-being of others,
and for the glory of your holy name.**

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

Assurance of Pardon [*responsive*]

Brothers and sisters, Christ is alive and that makes all the difference for us.

By God's grace, our old lives are dead in the tomb. Our new life has begun.

In Jesus Christ, we are set free from our sin.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture Readings

Psalm 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,^[a]

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

John 10:1-11

10 "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.^[a] 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.
¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Leader: This is the Witness to God’s Word. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

We Are Being Followed

Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence

We Respond to God’s Grace

Invitation to Generosity

Prayers of the People and 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.

We Depart for Service

***Announcements**

Passing the Peace

Greeting: “The peace of Christ be with you.”

Response: “And also with you.”

***Commission & Benediction**

Parts of the service are adapted from Feasting on the Word, Kimberly Bracken Long, ed.