

## Welcome...

...to all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire hope; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and yearn for fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whoever will come, this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the risen Lord Jesus Christ. Worship consists of a dialogue between God and His people. God speaks and we respond by grace. The pastor and a ruling elder lead us. **\*Please stand, if able.**

### Order of Morning Worship

April 11, 2021

Prelude *We prepare silently to meet God in worship.*

**\*Call to Worship:** Psalm 144:1-2

**\*Song of Approach** "Oh, How Good It Is"  
*We adore God for His majesty and His incomparable character.*

Oh, how good it is when the family of God  
Dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity.  
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love  
Are the fruit of His presence here among us.

*Refrain:*

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;  
And with one heart we'll live out His Word.  
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come  
For He dwells in the presence of His people.

Oh how good it is on this journey we share,  
To rejoice with the happy  
And weep with those who mourn.  
For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace,  
When we offer the blessing of belonging.

*Refrain*

Oh how good it is to embrace His command  
To prefer one another, forgive as He forgives.  
When we live as one, we all share in the love  
Of the Son with the Father and the Spirit.

*Refrain*

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### **\*Invocation and Profession of Faith**

Q. What do you believe when you say, "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth"?

A. *That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, Who still upholds and rules them by His eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ His Son.*

*I trust Him so much that I do not doubt He will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and He will turn to my good whatever adversity He sends me in this sad world. He is able to do this because He is Almighty God; He desires to do this because He is a faithful Father.*

Q. Why is Christ called God's "only Son" when we also are God's children?

A. *Because Christ alone is the eternal, natural Son of God. We, however, are adopted children of God; adopted by grace through Christ.*

*(Heidelberg Catechism, 26 and 33)*

**\*Hymn 75**

"O Father, You Are Sovereign"

O Father, You are sovereign  
In all the worlds You made;  
Your mighty word was spoken  
And light and life obeyed.  
Your voice commands the seasons  
And bounds the ocean's shore,  
Sets stars within their courses  
And stills the tempest's roar.

O Father, You are sovereign  
In all affairs of man;  
No pow'rs of death or darkness  
Can thwart Your perfect plan.  
All chance and change transcending,  
Supreme in time and space,  
You hold Your trusting children  
Secure in Your embrace.

O Father, You are sovereign  
The Lord of human pain,  
transmuting earthly sorrows  
To gold of heav'nly gain.  
All evil over-ruling,  
As none but Conqu'ror could,  
Your love pursues its purpose  
Our souls' eternal good.

O Father, You are sovereign!  
We see You dimly now,  
But soon before Your triumph  
Earth's every knee shall bow.  
With this glad hope before us

Our faith springs up anew:  
Our sovereign Lord and Savior,  
We trust and worship You!

**Old Testament Reading**

Psalm 23

**Congregational Prayer**

Heavenly Father,

I thank You that it is Your deep mercy to warn me of chastisement for my correction.

My sin is to look on my faults and be discouraged, or look on my good and be puffed up.

Keep me understanding that saints mourn more for sin than other people.

Help me to see that although I am in the wilderness, it is not all briars and barrenness.

I have bread from heaven, streams from the rock, light by day, and fire by night in Christ.

While I live, let my life be exemplary; when I die, may my end be peace.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon**

Psalm 103:11-12

**\*Hymn 299** "Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious"

Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious;  
See the Man of Sorrows now;  
From the fight returned victorious,  
Ev'ry knee to Him shall bow.  
Crown Him! Crown Him!  
Crowns become the Victor's brow.

Crown the Savior, angels, crown Him;  
Rich the trophies Jesus brings;  
In the seat of pow'r enthrone Him,  
While the vault of heaven rings.  
Crown Him! Crown Him!  
Crown the Savior King of kings.

Sinners in derision crowned Him  
Mocking thus the Savior's claim;  
Saints and angels crowd around Him,  
Own His title, Praise His name:  
Crown Him! Crown Him!  
Spread abroad the Victor's fame!

Hark! those bursts of acclamation!  
Hark! those loud triumphant chords!  
Jesus takes the highest station;  
O what joy the sight affords!  
Crown Him! Crown Him!  
King of kings and Lord of lords.

**New Testament Reading**

John 10:1-18

**Message**

*"THE SHEPHERD'S PSALM"*

**\*Hymn** "The Lord's My Shepherd" (Psalm 23)

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll not want.  
He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.

*Refrain:*

And I will trust in You alone.  
And I will trust in You alone,  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
And He anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights.

*Refrain*

And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff  
Are the comfort I need to know.

*Refrain*

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**\*God Blesses His People**

2 Corinthians 13:14

## **"THE SHEPHERD'S PSALM"**

Psalm 23:1-4

Harry Ironside: *"I believe Psalm 23 is the most loved Psalm of them all, and it is the one least believed."* Psalm 16:6.  
Derek Kidner: "Depth and strength underlie the simplicity of this psalm. Its peace is not escape; its contentment is not complacency: there is readiness to face deep darkness and imminent attack, and the climax reveals a love which moves toward no material goal but to the Lord Himself." Zech 13:7.

### **I. THE FAITHFUL SHEPHERD PROVIDES FOR HIS SHEEP**

#### **A. The Shepherd-God Provides All He Needs**

#### **B. Green Pastures are Spiritual Blessings**

Eph 1:17-20. Gracia Burnham, *In the Presence of Mine Enemies*. John 10:27.

### **II. THE FAITHFUL SHEPHERD PROTECTS HIS SHEEP**

#### **A. He Protects From Their Greatest Fear**

(Job 10:21-22; Job 12:22; Job 16:16; Job 24:17 (twice); Job 28:3; Job 34:22; Job 38:17; Ps 44:19; Psalm 107:14; Jer 2:6; Jer 13:16; Amos 5:8). Rom 6:23.

#### **B. Christ Leaves Only the Shadow for Us**

Heb 2:14-15. Donald Grey Barnhouse: "Death is a truck, but the shadow is all that ever touches the Christian. The truck ran over the Lord Jesus. Only the shadow is gone over mother." John 11:25-26

### **III. THE FAITHFUL SHEPHERD PUTS HIS SHEEP IN SHEEP PENS**

#### **A. God Provides Under-Shepherds**

2 Sam 5; Ezek 34; Zech 13; 1 Pet 5

#### **B. Believers are Sheep Who Need Under-Shepherds**

Phillip Keller, *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*. Heb 13:17

#### **C. The Good Shepherd Calls Us Together**

John 10:11; Gen 3:15; John 10:17.

*Conclusion*