

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

Fourth Sunday in Easter

April 25, 2021

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude "All Things Bright and Beautiful" arr. Robert J. Powell

Call to Worship 1 John 1:3

We declare to you what we have seen and heard,
so that you may have fellowship with us.

Truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his son Jesus Christ.

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

* Hymn 801 "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.
- 5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

***Almighty God, you have sent Jesus Christ as the light of the world,
exposing the lies that we tell,
revealing the falsehoods that we perpetuate,
unveiling the evil deeds that we have done,
and shining your light on what we have hidden in the shadows.***

***We hurt one another,
distort the damage by speaking untruths,
and resist the honesty of your love.***

In the name of Christ, we boldly ask for mercy.

Cancel our sin. Cleanse us from all lawlessness.

***Restore us to walk in fellowship with you and one another;
through Jesus Christ, the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Amen.***

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

* Easter Response 587

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson: John 10:11-18

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Psalter: Psalm 23 (Hymn 473, with sung refrain)

Refrain: ***Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.***

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

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

(Refrain)

He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

(Refrain)

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
thou anointest 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 forever.***

(Refrain)

A Time with Children

Epistle Lesson: 1 John 3:11-24

For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We must not be like Cain who was from the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not be astonished, brothers and sisters, that the world hates you.

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death. All who hate a brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them. We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Sermon: "Making It Real"

Rev. Carter

Easter Series: The Shape of Love

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 343

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

- 1 Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
- 2 In haunts of wretchedness and need, on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed, we catch the vision of your tears.
- 3 From tender childhood's helplessness, from human grief and burdened toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress, your heart has never known recoil.
- 4 The cup of water given for you still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view the sweet compassion of your face.
- 5 O Master, from the mountainside, make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide; O tread the city's streets again;
- 6 Till all the world shall learn your love, and follow where your feet have trod;
till glorious from your heaven above shall come the city of our God.

* Affirmation of Faith

A Brief Statement of Faith, section 1

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

**preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

Jesus was crucified,

suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead,

**vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

Offering
Offertory

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

arr. Charles Callahan

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.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 187 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

- 1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.
- 2 We are yours: in love befriend us; be the guardian of our way.
Keep your flock: from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.
- 3 You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
- 4 Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.

* Charge and Benediction

Postlude "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" arr. James W. Loeffler

* All who are able are invited to stand

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher	Rev. William G. Carter
Coordinator of Children And Youth Ministries	Jana Schillinger
Liturgist	David Naehar
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck

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**First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
570/586-6306
www.fpccs.org**

Church Family Announcements

Thank you for joining us for Worship. We worship every Sunday in two ways!

- **Have you had your vaccines?** [Make a reservation with our office](#) (570-586-6306) and join us in person at 10:00 AM.
- Tune in online for our weekly service, which is broadcast live on [our video page on YouTube](#) and archived for later viewing on the same site.

FEMA will be accepting applications to reimburse up to \$9000 for Covid-19 related funeral expenses beginning April 12. The original article (from the Boston Globe) and the FEMA link are below.

<https://www.boston.com/news/coronavirus/2021/04/08/fema-coronavirus-funeral-expenses>

www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance

Are you still looking for a vaccine? Countryside Community Church will host a public COVID-19 vaccination event on **Friday, May 7** at the church building located at 14011 Orchard Drive in Newton Township (Clarks Summit). To sign up for an appointment, visit [www.catemobile unit.com](http://www.catemobile.unit.com) and click on PRE-REGISTER. From the list select 5/7/21, Countryside Community Church, select a time and complete the registration process. Anyone who does not have internet access can call the church office at 570-587-3206 during office hours (Monday-Friday 9am-2pm) for help in scheduling an appointment.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health recently accelerated its COVID-19 vaccination timetable. **All residents 16+ are eligible for vaccination.**

Wednesday morning Bible study will conclude this Wednesday. Rev. Carter will lead the last lesson of the morning Bible study, "Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament," at 10 a.m. on **April 28**. It will be held live on Zoom, with a small group meeting simultaneously in Room 206. Would you like to be physically present? Contact the church office (586-6306) to make a reservation. Masks and safety rules apply!

Dobson Scholarship: All graduating High School members of the church who plan to further their education are invited to apply for the Paul R. Dobson Memorial Scholarship. To apply, download and complete the application from the church's website (fpccs.org), and mail it by **May 8** to Janet Dobson, 105 Center Lane, N. Abington Twp., PA 18414. The winner will be announced during Graduate Recognition Sunday.

Next Saturday, May 1, is Church Clean-up Day! There is much to be done. Please come between 9 AM and noon to lend a hand!

CAMP LACKAWANNA INFORMATION

Summer Camp 2021 Registration is open! Head on over to camp.lackawanna.org to see what programs are being offered this summer and to register your children for camp! Family Camp registration is also open!

DATES	CAMP	AGE GROUP
June 24-27	Family Camp	All Ages
June 28-30	Mini Camp	Ages 6-10
July 4-10	Wet n' Wild	Ages 7-16
July 11-17	Music, Arts and Drama	Ages 7-16
July 11-24	JH/SR 2-week	Completed grades 6-11
July 18-24	Adventure Camp	Completed grades 6-10
July 25-31	Night Owls	Completed grades 3-10
August 1-7	Camp Olympics	Ages 7-16

Our church offers scholarships for all young people who want to go. Check with Jana Schillinger for details.

Camp Lackawanna is actively seeking staff for Summer Camp. In addition to counselors, a cook is also needed. Applications can be filled out at www.camlackawanna.org

Mark Your CALENDARS!

Saturday, May 1 at 9:00 a.m. – Church Clean-up Day

Tuesday, May 11 from 10a.m. to noon, My Brother's Keeper Quilters return to Fellowship Hall

Friday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m. – Our next Arts Series event will feature The Susquehanna Valley Brass.

Sunday, May 16 after Worship – “Re-Gathering” **PICNIC** at **Lackawanna State Park**