

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
**April 25, 2021**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

*While in-person Worship services are suspended, Montgomery Presbyterian Church will be recording services. The following is an order of service that you can use to follow along with the recorded service, or use to read and reflect on your own. The service will be posted on the church's Facebook page, [on YouTube](#), and will be linked to the MPC website, [www.mpchurch.net](http://www.mpchurch.net). Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this challenging time.*

**PRELUDE**                    *Savior. Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Elder of the Month: Dick Reese, 513-675-3569
- Deacon of the Month: Sandra Bowen, 513-236-7158

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd; he lays down his life for his sheep.  
The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd; he knows us, and we belong to him.  
The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd; he speaks, and we listen for his voice.  
The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd; therefore let us worship God.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

If we are honest with ourselves, our hearts condemn us. But God, who knows everything, is greater than our hearts; and God's deep desire for us is mercy, love, and peace. Therefore let us confess our sin.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*from Emily Schlaman Larsen*

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
But, O Lord, we are consumed with wanting more.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.  
    But, O Lord, other pastures seem greener.  
    The waters aren't always still.  
    Our souls still thirst.  
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.  
    O Lord, we long to be led by you,  
    though we may complain along the path.  
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.  
    And yet, O God, we do sometimes fear.  
    May we feel your presence, your comfort and your forgiveness anew.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
    O God, sometimes we refuse to sit down at your table.

Forgive us and help us to see your overflowing mercy.  
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.  
Forgive us, God, and lead us into your house.

*Silence is kept*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

We seek God's grace with boldness because we trust in Jesus Christ, the One who loves us and laid down his life for us. This is the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Lord God, good shepherd, by the leading of your Spirit, help us listen for your voice and follow in your paths all the days of our lives; in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **FIRST READING**

*Psalm 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.

The Word of God for the people of God!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**SPECIAL MUSIC***Sheep May Safely Graze*

J.S. Bach

*Schafe können sicher weiden  
Wo ein guter Hirte wacht.**Sheep may safely graze and pasture  
In a watchful Shepherd's sight.**Wo Regenten wohl regieren  
Kann man Ruh' und Friede spüren  
Und was Länder glücklich macht.**Those who rule with wisdom guiding  
Bring to hearts a peace abiding  
Bless a land with joy made bright.***SECOND READING***John 10:11-18*

"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."

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!****MESSAGE**

Rev. Ben Shaw

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH***The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

... And now hear as we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

**HYMN**

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

*GTG803*

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all this day, and unto your life eternal. Amen.

**POSTLUDE**

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

- Music reprinted with permission of CCLI # 1895751

# My Shepherd Will Supply My Need 803

(Psalm 23)

1 My shep-herd will sup-ply my need; Je - ho - vah is his name.  
 2 When I walk through the shades of death your pres-ence is my stay;  
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

In pas - tures fresh he makes me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.  
 one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.  
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

He brings my wan - dering spir - it back when I for - sake his ways,  
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;  
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;

and leads me, for his mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.  
 my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows; your oil a - noints my head.  
 no more a strang - er, or a guest, but like a child at home.

The effectiveness of this beloved paraphrase of Psalm 23 owes much to the flowing shape note melody that serves as a "living stream" to carry the text, which in turn has been given a remarkable clarity and lightness through the poet's masterful use of single-syllable words.