

4th Sunday of Easter

May 3rd, 2020

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

A MOMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP

The Work of the Holy Spirit

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 23

The Divine Shepherd

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want

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

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

**4 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.**

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

**6 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.**

OPENING PRAYER

Father, we are entering our seventh week of lockdown. You have been with us all this time, showing us the things that truly matter, not our work, not shopping, not travelling, none of the things that occupy us in our regular lives. Rather, we learn that our health and our relationship with others and especially with you are the things in life that matter. Bless especially those of us whose lives have been disrupted from helping ourselves and others in need in these difficult times. Help us to walk closer in Your ways, as the passage of time allows us to return to routines we used to have, with a heightened devotion to You and to the things that really matter. Amen.

HYMN #513

“Let Us Break Bread Together On Our Knees”

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Hosea 6:1 Come on! Let's return to the LORD.

He himself has torn us to pieces, but he will heal us!

He has injured us, but he will bandage our wounds!

6:2 He will restore us in a very short time;

he will heal us in a little while, so that we may live in his presence.

6:3 So let us search for him!

Let us seek to know the LORD!

He will come to our rescue as certainly as the appearance of the dawn,

as certainly as the winter rain comes,

as certainly as the spring rain that waters the land.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Savior God, you created us to share your glory as part of your family and as masters of your creation. We confess that from the time of the fall, we have turned away from Your truth, looking instead to answers from our own knowledge and strength. Many years into your plans for our redemption we continue to look to ourselves rather than to you. We seek only the immediate good for ourselves and forsake the good for others, we aren't worthy of membership in your family.

Through Your grace, and the grace of Jesus our Lord and saviour, along with the Spirit indwelling us, lead us back to Your path, and deliver us from our sin. With humble and contrite hearts we pray for forgiveness. Amen.

(A time for silent and personal prayer...)

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

As we find our sins and wrong doings forgiven by our Lord, we find new strength to forgive others for the sins that have been committed against us. We are reconciled in order to reconcile. Let us rejoice in the grace that has been given to us and offer it to our neighbor.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Even if we come with open ears, we cannot hear until you speak, Lord. Even if we come with open eyes we cannot see until your light is revealed. Even if we come with open hearts, we are cold ash until you awaken us with your warming love. Remake us with your Word today. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

Genesis 1:1-2

1 In the beginning when God created[a] the heavens and the earth, 2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God[b] swept over the face of the waters.

PSALM 51: 10-13

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right[a] spirit within me.
11 Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.
12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing[b] spirit.
13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

Psalm 104: 27-30

27 These all look to you to give them their food in due season;
28 when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
29 When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.
30 When you send forth your spirit,[a] they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Shout to the North”
Colin, Skye and Maggie Hodgkin

Martin Smith

GOSPEL LESSON: John 16:5-15

5 But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ **6** But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. **7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. **8** And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: **9** about sin, because they do not believe in me; **10** about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; **11** about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. **13** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. **14** He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. **15** All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

SERMON

“The Work of the Spirit”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN #83 “O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH From the Heidelberg Catechism

Q 54. What do you believe concerning “the holy catholic church”?

A. I believe that the Son of God through his Spirit and Word, out of the entire human race, from the beginning of the world to its end, gathers, protects, and preserves for himself a community chosen for eternal life and united in true faith. And of this community I am and always will be a living member.

Q 55. What do you understand by “the communion of saints”?

A. First, that believers one and all, as members of this community, share in Christ and in all his treasures and gifts.

Second, that each member should consider it a duty to use these gifts readily and joyfully for the service and enrichment of the other members.

Q56. What do you believe concerning “the forgiveness of sins”?

A. I believe that God, because of Christ’s satisfaction, will no longer remember any of my sins or my sinful nature which I need to struggle against all my life. Rather, by grace God grants me the righteousness of Christ to free me forever from judgment.

CELEBRATION OF 40+ MEMBERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Help us, we pray, O Lord that we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

We pray O Lord that we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

We pray O Lord that we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health and making their rent.

We pray O Lord that we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

We pray O Lord that we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.

We pray O Lord that we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

We pray O Lord that we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

Yes there is fear. But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation. But there does not have to be loneliness.

**Yes there is panic buying. But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness. But there does not have to be disease of the soul
There is death. But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Help us O Lord to make this so.
Help us O Lord that as fear grips our country, we will choose love.**

JOYS & CONCERNS

**And during this time when we may not be able to physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.
Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

COMMUNION

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

HYMN #443 (Purple Hymnal) “There is a Redeemer”

OFFERING

Let's close our worship by giving our gifts to the Lord!

Please remember FFPC in your giving. You can give online, through your own bank or through our website ([www,ffpc.org](http://www.ffpc.org)). You can also mail any gifts, pledges or donations to the Church Office, 503 South Leroy, Fenton, Michigan 48430.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Project 2020 Report

The coronavirus caused us to shift our way of life and thinking. We reached out to the Center of Hope for help to make sure our 23 families we committed to assist received the much-needed groceries and VG gift certificates. With the Center of Hope's help and our donations of \$1,000 and the twenty-three VG's \$50 gift certificates we were not only able to assist our 23 families but an additional 60 other families were also provided food with ingredients to prepare full meals, plus breakfast, lunch and snacks items to last a week.

The Deacons want to THANK everyone who have already contributed to our Easter project. Unfortunately, due to the situation we have not received enough funds to cover the project. Please consider donating to this special Deacons event. You can donate through your own bank or online at www.ffpc.org. You can also donate via US mail to Fenton First Presbyterian Church, 503 S. Leroy St., Fenton, Mi 48430. Please make sure you designate the donation to Deacons or to Deacons Easter project. Thank you so much for your consideration.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We thank you for all the good gifts that you provide to us out of your merciful love. It is in gratitude that we make our offerings now. For that have done and promise to do and so that your glory might be known to the world, we give to your church. Further our gifts so that they might be a blessing. Amen

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**The Lord is your light and your salvation; Do not fear.
The Lord is the stronghold of your life; Do not be afraid.
May he hide you in his shelter in the day of trouble; May he conceal you under the cover of his tent; May he set you high on a rock and bless you.**

May the Peace of Christ be with you.