

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla  
Worship Service for the Fourth Sunday of Easter**

*April 30, 2023*

**Pre-Service Music:** *Moments in Prayer* - Anthony Giamanco

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:** *On Wind of Spirit* - Mark Hayes

**Introit #322:** *We Are One in Christ Jesus*

**Call to Worship**

We come to worship the risen Christ.

**Praise to Christ, the good shepherd!**

Alleluia, praise to Christ, the gate!

**Alleluia, praise to Christ, the lamb!**

Alleluia, praise to Christ, our savior!

**Christ is risen still! Alleluia!**

**Prayer of the Day**

**O God, our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn #321:** *The Church's One Foundation* vs. 1, 2, 4, 5 (please stand)

**Call to Confession**

Christ is the good shepherd,

**who leads us to safety and peace no matter what we have done.**

Christ's voice calls us to repent and return;

**let us heed that voice and go to God in prayer.**

**Prayer of Confession**

**God of community, you call us to a world radically different from what we are used to. You ask us to lay aside our ideas of "mine" and "yours." You show us a**

**life where goods are shared, where all are loved, and faithfulness is shown through generosity. But we cling to our possessions, trusting them more than we trust you. Forgive us, merciful God. Help us to truly believe in your just and peaceful realm and to work to make it so.**

### **Declaration of Pardon**

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,

**so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness;  
by his wounds we have been healed.**

For we were going astray like sheep,

**but now we have returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls.  
Thanks be to God!**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

### **Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Glory Be to the Father #581:** *(please stand)*

**Anthem:** *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* Antony Baldwin

### **Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.**

### **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

*Worship leader will lead the prayers.* Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

United in the hope and joy of resurrection,  
let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

You are the shepherd who gathers us in your mighty and loving arms. Help your church to listen for your voice, especially when the voices of sin, idolatry, and oppression threaten to overpower us.

Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who taught us to pray:

**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 #803:** *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* v. 1, 2, 3 (seated)

**Prayer for Illumination:**

**Lead us Good Shepherd and guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

**Scriptures for the Day**

**Reading:** Acts 2:42 - 47

**Epistle Lesson:** 1 Peter 1: 19 - 25

**Gospel Lesson:** John 10:1 - 10

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:**

*The Gate for the Sheep*

Susan Murray

**Affirmation of Faith** Adapted from the French Confession of 1559, based on a translation of the original text by Dr. Ellen Babinsky, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and Dr. Joseph D. Small, Office of Theology and Worship, PC(USA)

**We believe and confess only one God, who can do all things, is all-wise, all-good, all-just, and all-merciful.**

**We believe that everything required for our salvation has been offered and communicated to us in Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God and God's eternal Son.**

**Jesus Christ clothed himself in our flesh:  
God and human in one person.**

**We believe that we are illuminated in faith by the unfathomable grace of the Holy Spirit.**

**God imparts this gracious gift. By faith we receive grace to live holy lives in awe and reverence for God, for we receive what the gospel promises when God gives us the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Dedication of Tithes and Offerings**

(please stand)

**Offering #716:**

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* v. 1 and 2

**Prayer of Dedication:**

**God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel, through Christ Jesus, our risen Savior and wellspring of eternal life. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn #300:**

*We Are One in the Spirit*

(stand)

**Benediction:**

(remain standing)

The God of all, who raised Jesus from the dead,  
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.  
He is risen! **He is risen indeed!**

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

**Postlude:** *Jubilate* - Todd Beaney

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Jeff Sandquist and Lorie Francis.  
Worship led by Cheryl Koederitz and sermon provided by Susan Murray.*

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