

Easter 4

15 May 2011

*The church is fitted with a hearing loop which covers the body of the church.
Hearing aid wearers are advised to switch their aid to T-setting.*

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

ORGAN PRELUDE

The people stand for the entrance of the Bible.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Day by day, God leads us:
to the deep, deep pools of peace,
to the green, lush lawns of grace.

Day by day, Jesus calls us:
to pour out ourselves in service,
to anoint the stranger with hope.

Day by day, the Holy Spirit shows us:
the community we could be,

the family we are called to become. Thom Shuman

Christ Jesus is the way to life. The voice of Christ calls to us in love. There we will be renewed and nurtured. There we will find all that we need, and be embraced by the care of God discovering a home in which lies all that we need.

HYMN 557

Praise to the Holiest in the height

WELCOME

COLLECT

Risen Christ, Good Shepherd, faithful companion, feed us and we shall be satisfied; heal us and we shall be made whole; and lead us, that we may be with you; for you are alive and reign, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We praise you, O God, for giving shape and meaning to the ancient image of yourself as shepherd through the person of Jesus Christ. In him, your compassion has been revealed in the human face of love. In him, you create a safe haven for the vulnerability of our lives. We thank you for showing us, in Jesus, the one who can be trusted and who offers us the gateway to love. Through Jesus your goodness and mercy have been abundantly experienced. His ongoing life continues to guide and lead us in paths of righteousness. *Moira Laidlaw/Words for Worship*

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, O God, for the times when we fail to reach out and accompany those who are going through difficult times; those who feel imprisoned in a valley of shadows and find themselves overwhelmed by life.

Jesus, good shepherd,

help us to take the time and make the space to hear your call to us. The call to reveal your love, compassion and comfort wherever you need us to bind up the wounds of the victims of today's society.

Jesus, good shepherd,

help us to take the time and make the space to hear your call to us. The call to reveal in tangible and authentic ways, your passion for those who feel powerless to make any changes for good in their lives.

Jesus, good shepherd,

help us to take the time and make the space to hear your call to us

The call to empty ourselves of all that is contrary to your life within us so that your goodness and mercies are enjoyed not as rewards to be hoarded but as gifts to be shared. In your name, we pray. Amen

Moira Laidlaw

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

O God, bring new life, where we are worn and tired;
new love, where we have turned hard hearted;
forgiveness, where we have wounded,
and the joy and freedom of your holy spirit,
where we are the prisoners of our selves.

Rex A E Hunt

BAPTISM OF ANGELINA KOLLIAS

Friends in Christ, will you promise to maintain a life of worship and teaching, witness and service so that Angelina may grow to maturity in Christ?

With God's help, we will live out our baptism as a loving community in Christ; nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, and encouraging one another in service, until Christ comes.

Aaronic blessing

J.Rutter b.1945

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you,
And give you peace. Amen

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

ANTHEM The strife is o'er M.Vulpius 1609 arr. H.C.Ley

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, You have been given to us for guidance and encouragement, for comfort and counsel. Open our hearts and minds to the message of the scriptures and enable us to apply this lesson in our daily lives.

In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

FIRST READING Acts 2: 42-47

In this is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He shall feed me in a green pasture and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
- 3 He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
- 5 Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
- 6 But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

From the oremus Bible Browser <http://bible.oremus.org>

Please stand for the concluding Gloria

Glory be to the Father, and / to the / Son:

And / to the / Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now and / ever / shall be

World without / end / A / men

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2: 19-25

In this is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

ANTHEM

He that shall endure to the end

F.Mendelssohn 1809-1847

Please stand for the gospel reading

A reading from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you Lord.

GOSPEL READING

John 10: 1-10

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN 589

The King of love my shepherd is

SERMON

THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION

HYMN 152

Now is eternal life

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Jesus, Good Shepherd, we thank you for the ways in which you have enfolded us in your love and called us by name to follow you. May these gifts and our lives offered in your name, be used to enfold others in your love. Amen *Moira Laidlaw*

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Gracious Christ, may we be as welcoming as you are to those who hesitate in anxiety before the doors of our sanctuaries, feeling that they may not be good enough to enter or may face rejection from those inside. May we be your people of humility and openness, so that all who come experience a glimpse of you. Reveal to us your ways of nourishing life, O Christ, as we try to build relationships with each other that bring gifts of affirmation and encouragement.

Every time we meet together, may we feel as though we are gathered into grace and given a place of rest and renewal. Open the doors of this, your house, Jesus Christ, and help us to see with your eyes what lies outside and to hear the trembling hopes of vulnerable people. We pray now for these we have heard:

We pray for those whose lives and rights are sacrificed in the name of power and greed.

We pray for those who risk themselves by accompanying others along paths of deep suffering, through valleys of fear and despair.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who work to feed and shelter and educate the poor peoples of our world.

We pray for those skilled at nursing and healing, and those who are suffering or ill in body, mind or spirit.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who care for the victims of our society, those unable to cope with life, the neglected, the abused.

We pray for peoples and places of concern in our world this day
(*a silence is kept*)

We pray for those we know, relatives or friends who are facing difficult times
(*a silence is kept*)

We pray for ourselves that we might follow the example of the Good Shepherd and follow his way of love. We make all our prayers in Christ's name. Amen.

(*Companion to the Lectionary Volume 4 by Christine Odell*)/*Words for worship*/(*Companion to the Lectionary, Volume 3 by Neil Dixon p96/97*)

God in community, holy in one, we pray as Jesus has taught us saying....

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*inside front cover of hymn book*)

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

HYMN 148 Jesus lives! Thy terrors now

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

As we prepare to leave this sacred space where we have worshipped together, let us return to our lives enlivened and renewed.

The community candle is extinguished

We extinguish this candle, knowing the light of the risen One is within us, and we carry it forth from this place.

May God the heart of life be found within us,

May God the Christ be found in the moments of our days

and may God the Spirit lift up our hearts and be the source of encouragement.

Amen.

Rex AE Hunt, adapted

You are invited to be seated for the playing of the organ postlude, or to leave at this point without disturbing those who wish to listen.

POSTLUDE Pastorale

J.S. Bach 1685-1750

Please stand as the Bible is taken from the church

Presiding Minister

Sandy Boyce

Scripture Reader

June Ward

Organist & Choir Director

Christopher Bridge

The Choir of Pilgrim Church

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