



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2020

Life Abundant . . . During Quarantine?



may 3 @ fpc

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SERVING THIS MORNING:
Music Director: Dr. Greg Turner
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PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Sisters and brothers, let us gather together
with glad and generous hearts.

For many signs and wonders are being done among us.

Let us break bread together and share our lives in common.

**Let us give what we can to all who have needs
so that all people, no matter who they are,
may regard us with good will.**

Let us devote ourselves to our prayers and to the gospel.

For in this way God will add to our numbers every day.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Good Shepherd,
you call us by name,
and we know your voice.
Open the gate for us,
that we may come and go freely,
have life, and have it abundantly. **Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN:

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

#71

- 1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Come, all who hear; now to his temple draw near,
join me in glad adoration!*
- 2. Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously reigning;
sheltering you under his wings, and so gently sustaining!
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?*
- 3. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you:
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
if with his love he befriends you.*
- 4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him.*

*CALL TO CONFESSION:

Friends, in as much as God is our shepherd,
let us not fear,
but confess our sin that God may restore our souls.

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Holy One, we confess to you and to one another
that we have not always followed Christ's example.
When we have been abused,
we have been abusive in return.
We have gone astray.
Lead us back into your fold
and guard our souls in Jesus' name. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

#377

O Lord, have mercy, O Lord have mercy,
O Lord have mercy, have mercy on us.
O Christ have mercy, O Christ have mercy,
O Christ have mercy, have mercy on us.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:**

Friends, the promise of our faith is that
if we entrust ourselves to the One who judges justly,
we need not feel threatened,
for we will be returned to righteousness.
Having been brought back into the safety of God's fold,
let us share our peace with one another.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us offer and receive the peace of Christ as a sign of
God's grace and assurance of forgiveness.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

(Take a moment to share Christ's peace by greeting those around you.)

***SUNG RESPONSE**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Shepherding God,
in a dangerous world,
let us hear your voice and
come and go through your gate.

We pray for the whole church,
that we may be devoted to your Word
and to universal fellowship,
being generous to all who have need.
We pray for the earth,
for green pastures and still waters,
that we may restore them to
the goodness and purity that they had
at the time that you created them.

We pray for the people of the world,
their nations, and leaders,
that your wisdom and peace may govern all,
so that no one will fear.

We pray for all those in need,
for those in want,
those ill and those dying,
that we may be the banquet that you set before them
as we anoint them, feed them, and comfort them in your name.

We pray for ourselves, our families, and those we love.
May no one live in fear; may all dwell in your presence.

We pray for those near to us who need your strength and healing...(prayer cards)
Blessed are you, Great Shepherd,
who, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit,
gives us goodness and mercy,
leads us down right paths, and restores our souls. **Amen.**

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.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

Loving God,
we pray that your Holy Spirit will strengthen us
to be devoted to the teachings of your Word,
that through it we may hear your voice
and follow it into eternal life. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: PSALM 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³ he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will 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 your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND READING: JOHN 10:1-10

¹ "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. ⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

SERMON:

"Life Abundant . . . During Quarantine?"

Rev. Dr Jared Witt

***A Brief Statement of Faith (1983):**

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one true 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 the 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...**

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

THE RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy and generous God,
you have anointed us and we are yours.
Bless these tithes and offerings
that they may become green pastures and still waters
for any and all who need your comfort and restoration.
Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN:

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

#440

1. *Savior, like a Shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.*
2. *We are thine, do thou befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray.*
3. *Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to thee;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to thee.*
4. *Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will;
blessed Lord and only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still.*

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

HOUSEHOLD PRAYERS

MORNING

Generous God, thank you for the gift of this new day.
Help me to watch for your signs and wonders in the world today,
and fill my heart with gladness and generosity,
that I may generate good will wherever I go. Amen.

EVENING

Thank you, God, for shepherding me through this day.
As I lie down to sleep this night
help me to imagine green pastures and still waters,
and to remember all the ways you have set a table before me
and filled my cup to overflowing. Amen.