

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 10 am

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me" (John 10:14)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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HYMN #170: *THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD, I'LL NOT WANT*

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear none ill;
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Let us worship the God who satisfies our every need,
the Good Shepherd who guides us to abundance and refreshment.

Let us praise the God who specializes in the restoration of the soul,
who navigates our perfect path, and is present with us in times of trouble.

He is our Blessing and our Protector.

God surrounds and nourishes us
in the midst of the assailing forces that seek our destruction.

Let us give thanks to our relentless God,
the Hound of Heaven who pursues us with goodness and mercy
all the days of our lives. Amen.

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IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found;
 He is my light, my strength, my song.
 This Cornerstone, this solid Ground:
 Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
 What heights of love, what depths of peace,
 When fears are stilled, when strivings cease:
 My Comforter, my All in All,
 Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh,
 Fullness of God in helpless babe.
 This gift of love and righteousness,
 Scorned by the ones He came to save.
 Till on that cross as Jesus died,
 The wrath of God was satisfied,
 For every sin on Him was laid,
 Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
 Light of the world by darkness slain.
 Then bursting forth in glorious Day,
 Up from the grave He rose again.
 And as He stands in victory,
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
 For I am His and He is mine,
 Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
 This is the power of Christ in me.
 From life's first cry to final breath,
 Jesus commands my destiny.
 No power of hell, no scheme of man,
 Can ever pluck me from His hand,
 Till He returns or calls me home,
 Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

*"In Christ Alone" by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend.
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PRAYER OF CONFESSION *AND* ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

Shepherding God, be with us in our need.

Like sheep who have gone astray—
 we frequently fail to heed your call to follow the right paths,
 to lie down and be restored in your presence and care;
 we have too often acted as if our salvation lies in busyness and control.
 We do not want to be sheep—dependent on a shepherd for everything.
 We want to do it alone—to maintain our independence.

Forgive us for rejecting your shepherding care and your love and guidance.

Forgive us for our need to do it by ourselves, to be separate from the flock.

Forgive us for doubting your presence in times of trouble.

Forgive us our despair in the face of seemingly unrelenting evil and death.

Shepherd of our souls: lead us back to the path of life. Amen.

After corporate prayer we will have a few moments of silence for personal confession.

SOLO (*Patty Sundstrom*)

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"The Good Shepherd"*

John 10:1–33

"I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! ² But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice."

⁶ Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn't understand what he meant, ⁷ so he explained it to them: "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. ¹⁰ The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. ¹² A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, ¹⁵ just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.

¹⁷ "The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. ¹⁸ No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded."

¹⁹ When he said these things, the people were again divided in their opinions about him. ²⁰ Some said, "He's demon possessed and out of his mind. Why listen to a man like that?" ²¹ Others said, "This doesn't sound like a man possessed by a demon! Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

²² It was now winter, and Jesus was in Jerusalem at the time of Hanukkah, the Festival of Dedication. ²³ He was in the Temple, walking through the section known

as Solomon's Colonnade. ²⁴ The people surrounded him and asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

²⁵ Jesus replied, "I have already told you, and you don't believe me. The proof is the work I do in my Father's name. ²⁶ But you don't believe me because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, ²⁹ for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one."

³¹ Once again the people picked up stones to kill him. ³² Jesus said, "At my Father's direction I have done many good works. For which one are you going to stone me?"

³³ They replied, "We're stoning you not for any good work, but for blasphemy! You, a mere man, claim to be God."

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

The metal basket in the offering plate is for gifts to support our deacons' provision of care, support, and financial assistance to those in need.

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DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him all creatures here below;
 Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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HYMN #387: SAVIOR LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
 Much we need Thy tender care;
 In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
 For our use Thy folds prepare:
 Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
 Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
 Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
 Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
 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:
 Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
 Early let us turn to Thee.
 Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
 Early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor;
 Early let us do Thy will;
 Blessèd Lord and only Savior,
 With Thy love our bosoms fill:
 Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
 Thou hast loved us, love us still;
 Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
 Thou hast loved us, love us still.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary) Sharing Table (before and after the service) Church Membership Meeting (after the service in Parlor)
Tuesday, April 1	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30) Worship at Channel Point (10:30)
Wednesday, April 2	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30) Lenten Study: <i>Friendly Faith</i> Coffee and Study (1:00 pm) Soup and Study (6:00 pm)
Sunday, April 6	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship with Communion (10:00 in the Sanctuary) One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
LOOKING AHEAD	One Great Hour of Sharing Offering: April 13 Maundy Thursday service: April 17

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