



# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**May 3, 2020  
at 10:30 a.m.  
on Facebook Live**

**or in the afternoon on our church  
website at [westminsterakron.org](http://westminsterakron.org)**

## COME

*We welcome you to Westminster's virtual worship service this Sunday. To set a more worshipful tone while watching this service at home, we encourage you to find a quiet space and light a candle.*

*If you are joining us on Facebook Live, then you can find a copy of today's bulletin on our church website at [westminsterakron.org](http://westminsterakron.org).*

Opening Voluntary      Sheep May Safely Graze      J.S. Bach  
*Elizabeth Crabtree & Valerie Stewart, soloists*

\*Call to Worship      Brad Hall

Come, bow down and worship, kneel to the Lord, our Maker.  
**This is our God, our shepherd, we are the flock led with care.**

\*Hymn 244      Let Us with a Gladsome Mind      MONKLAND

1. Let us with a gladsome mind Praise the Lord who is so kind:  
For God's mercies shall endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.
2. God, with all-commanding might, Filled the new-made world with light:  
For God's mercies shall endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.
3. All things living God does feed, With full measure meets their need: For  
God's mercies shall endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.

4. Let us with a gladsome mind Praise the Lord who is so kind:  
For God's mercies shall endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.

## ENCOUNTER

### 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 soul.

### 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.**

*Silence is observed.*

Response 574                      Lord, Have Mercy                      *Kyrie*  
**Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

### Assurance 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.

\*Response 567                      Glory Be to the Father                      *Gloria Patri*  
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever, Amen. Amen.**

\*Passing the Peace  
We invite you now to greet one another saying,  
**The peace of Christ be with you.**

Time for Church Life

Duet

We Hasten with Feeble, but Diligent Footsteps

J.S. Bach  
(Cantata #78)

*We hasten with feeble, but diligent footsteps,  
O Jesus, O Master, For help unto thee.*

*Thou faithfully seekest the sick and the wicked.  
Ah, hear us, we pray, Our voices we raise;  
For Thy favor we pray thee.*

*O grant unto us Thy presence refreshing.  
We hasten with feeble, but diligent footsteps,  
O Jesus, O Master, For help unto Thee.*

\*Response 592      Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow      *Doxology*  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures  
here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father,  
Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Time with Young Disciples

Sheila Svoboda

## GROW

Prayer for 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 to eternal life. **Amen.**

The First Lesson      Acts 2:42-47

New Testament

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

44 All who believed were together and had all things in common;

45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts,

47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

- 1 “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.
- 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 hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
- 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.
- 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.”
- 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.
- 7 So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.
- 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them.
- 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.
- 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon     Tender Shepherd

The Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby

## SERVE

\*Affirmation of Faith

**Remembering the promise to reconcile the world, God joined our humanity in Jesus Christ - the eternal Word made flesh. He is the long-awaited Messiah, one with us and one with God, fully human and fully divine, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of Mary. We are chosen in Christ to become like him. God’s electing love sustains our hope.**

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 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.

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.

And finally, together as the people of God, let us offer the words of the Lord's Prayer, saying in one voice:

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.**

\*Hymn 389      O Jesus, I Have Promised

NYLAND

1.     O Jesus, I have promised To serve Thee to the end;  
       Be Thou forever near me, My Master and my friend,  
       I shall not fear the battle If Thou art by my side,  
       Nor wander from the pathway If Thou wilt be my guide.
2.     O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ever near;  
       I see the sights that dazzle, The tempting sounds I hear;  
       My foes are ever near me, Around me and within;  
       But Jesus, draw Thou nearer And shield my soul from sin.
3.     O let me hear Thee speaking In accents clear and still,  
       Above the storms of passion, The murmurs of self-will;  
       O speak to reassure me, To hasten or control;  
       O speak, and make me listen, Thou guardian of my soul.

4. O Jesus, Thou hast promised To all who follow Thee  
That where Thou art in glory There shall Thy servant be;  
And, Jesus, I have promised To serve Thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, My Master and my friend.

\*Charge and Benediction

Voluntary      If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee

J.S. Bach

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The flowers in the chancel** are given in loving memory of my husband, Whitey Wahl, and my parents, Glenn and Ruth Clark, by Marian Wahl.

**Helping Our Community** Due to COVID-19, many families in our community have become unemployed or underemployed joining the many who are homeless or otherwise in need. These families are without sufficient funds to purchase basic supplies including food or pay their rent. In response to our community's needs, the Outreach Committee asks you to consider a monetary contribution to one of the following organizations:

**Good Neighbors**

1453 Goodyear Blvd.  
Akron, Ohio 44305

**Akron-Canton  
Foodbank**

350 Opportunity Pkwy.  
Akron, OH 44307

**United Way of Summit County**

COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund  
37 N. High Street  
Akron, Ohio 44308

**Monday Zoom Bible Study** Pastor Jon is offering a new, virtual Bible study on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. If you might be interested in participating, then please contact our pastor.

**Session Voted** to suspend on-site activities, including in-person worship, through June 1, 2020. The office will remain open from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday-Friday to answer phone calls and address business matters on-site. Worship services will continue to be broadcast virtually.

*During these difficult times, the church remains grateful for your faithful support of our ministries through your financial contributions.*

*Please help us continue to serve the WPC family and our neighbors by ensuring that our staff is supported, our facility remains operational, and the "least of these" are served. To give online, click under the tab "online giving."*

Staff schedule in the office: Monday - Pastor Jon, Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. Tuesday - Debby Evrard, Mallory Gray and Dave Bodnar. Wednesday - Pastor Jon, Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. Thursday - Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda and Dave Bodnar. Friday - Pastor Jon and Claudine Schooley



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