



# Grace First

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working*

606 Mockingbird Lane, Weatherford, Texas 76086

817-594-2744

[www.gracefirstpc.org](http://www.gracefirstpc.org)



The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor  
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor  
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 3, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter

You will find the liturgy of the service laid out as it would normally be when we gather for worship in the sanctuary. You can choose to read it all together, or use the call and response format as printed. If you are going to follow along with the call and response it may help to select a liturgist for one or all the sections to lead you. This is good for any age person! If there are difficult words you can help each other out!

## Prelude

Gilbert Martin

“Triptych on The Shepherd Psalm”

## 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 of Invocation

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.

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 \*Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.  
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.  
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

## REFRAIN

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!  
 오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.  
 날 마 다 자 비 를 베 푸 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.  
 일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!  
 오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

\*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

## **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.

## **Prayer of Confession**

Holy One, we confess to you and to one another that we have not always followed Christ's example. We are quick to return violence with violence, to return oppression with oppression, and to return hate with hate. We have gone astray. Lead us back into your fold and guard our souls in Jesus' name.

## **Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

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.

## **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. Amen.

## **First Reading**

Acts 2:42-47

The word of God for the People of God  
**Thanks be to God**

**Music Ministry**

Thomas Matthews

“The Lord Is My Shepherd”

Sanctuary Choir, 2000

Linda Young, Soloist

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul.  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
for His name’s sake.

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 they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me  
in the presence of mine enemies.  
Thou anointest my head with oil;  
my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall 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

The word of God for the People of God  
**Thanks be to God**

**Sermon**

The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

187 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.  
 2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.  
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;  
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.

In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.  
 Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a-stray.  
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.  
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

This unattributed hymn, like many that are now meaningful to adults, was written for children and develops shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18. The tune, composed for these words, was originally named for the text but has come to be known by the composer’s name.

## **Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **Prayers of the People and 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.

## **Call to Stewardship**

Church, our God has prepared a table before us and our cup overflows. So let us give generously from our common wealth, as our way of praising God and giving to those in need.

## **Offertory**

Charles Gounod

“O Loving Savior”

## **Congregational Response** Hymn 606 Old Hundredth

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Offertory Prayer

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

## Hymn 542

## God Be With You

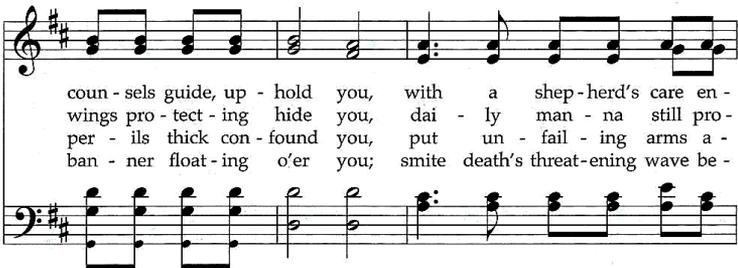
"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

SENDING

## 542 God Be with You Till We Meet Again



1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing  
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; un - seen  
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's  
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's



coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en -  
 wings pro - tect - ing hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro -  
 per - ils thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing arms a -  
 ban - ner float - ing o'er you; smite death's threat - ening wave be -



fold you:  
 vide you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 round you:  
 fore you:

After writing the first stanza of his "Christian Good-bye," the author sent it to two composers, one celebrated and one unknown, to see how each would set it. This is the second person's tune, which the author found more effective and used for the hymn's first publication.

TEXT: Jeremiah Eames Rankin, 1880, alt.  
 MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

GOD BE WITH YOU  
 9.8.8.9  
 (alternate tune: RANDOLPH, 541)

## **Benediction**

### **The Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you**

### **Postlude**

arr. Anna Laura Page

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

### **May Star Word Prompt:**

As we prepare for Pentecost, how has the Holy Spirit lit  
a fire in you in/through your star word?

What new thing has it inspired you to do?

**Music Notes** –The Prelude uses three Shepherd  
tunes:

Crimond, St. Columba and Resignation