

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
April 18, 2021  
1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian of Rockaway**

**Join Zoom Worship**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7423478806?pwd=MTdaSjRFSVZ3RIF5bW9sMGpqYVhXQT09>**

**Meeting ID: 742 347 8806**

**Passcode: 6562894**

**One tap mobile**

**+19292056099,,7423478806#,,,,\*6562894# US (New York)**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**                   **“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”**

Words & Music by Helen H. Lemmel

Arranged by Melody Bober

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

**He lays down his life for his sheep.**

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

**He knows us, and we belong to him.**

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

**He speaks, and we listen for his voice.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**We are your people, O God— the sheep of your pasture, the flock you have gathered. Lead us beside still waters; teach us the way of righteousness; and feed us at your table; through Jesus Christ, our good shepherd. Amen.**

**HYMN 610**

**O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing**

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer’s praise,  
The glories of my God and King, the triumph of God’s grace.**

**The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease,  
Sings music in the sinner’s ears, brings life, and health and peace.**

**Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive;  
The mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe.**

**My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of they name.**

**To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given  
By saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.**

## **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

If we are honest with ourselves, our hearts condemn us. But God, who knows everything, is greater than our hearts; and God's deep desire for us is mercy, love, and peace. Therefore, let us confess our sin.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Lord, have mercy on us. We talk about love, but our actions betray us. We talk about love, but we neglect the poor. We talk about love, but we fail to love one another. Lord, have mercy on us. Forgive us, and abide in us by the power of your Spirit so that our lives may show our love for Jesus Christ, in whose body we live and in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

We seek God's grace with boldness because we trust in Jesus Christ, the One who loves us and laid down his life for us. This is the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Lord God, good shepherd, by the leading of your Spirit, help us to listen for your voice and follow in your paths all the days of our lives; in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Acts 4:32-35**

<sup>32</sup> Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup> They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

### **PSALM 23:1-6.**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> **He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;**

<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.**

## **1 John 3:16-24**

<sup>16</sup> We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us — and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup> How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup> And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup> whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup> and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup> All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

## **John 10:11-18**

<sup>11</sup> "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away — and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

**SERMON**

**"The Good Shepherd"**

**Elder Joe Martinoni**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in God -- who works in the hidden stillness of every dawn; who beckons us to visit the tomb of our fears so we might discover the birth of hope; who sends reoccurring dreams, fragrant flowers, good friends and bright angels with messages of joy and possibility. We believe in Jesus, the risen Christ -- who meets us on every path; who greets us with respect, names and calms our fears, and bids us walk and talk as children of the Light; who is always going before us into our workplace and play space. We believe in the Holy Spirit -- who gathers us into a kindred community; who works through the lame and the late, the wrinkled and the newborn, the hurting and the hopeful; who nudges our prayers, kindles our longings and prompts our praise. We believe we are called to be Easter people -- challenging despair with glowing hope, acting peacefully in the midst of painful good Fridays, and living joyfully even in the midst of harsh realities. We believe in the church -- the handholding, hearty singing and passionate, caring fellowship of seekers and finders. This we believe.**

**HYMN 187            Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us**

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.  
In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.

We are yours: in love befriend us; be the guardian of our way.  
Keep your flock: from sin defend us; see us when we go astray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;  
You have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

Early let us seek you favor; early let us do your will.  
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**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 741            Guide My Feet**

Guide my feet while I run this race; (yes, my Lord)  
Guide my feet while I run this race; (yes, my Lord)  
Guide my feet while I run this race;  
For I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

Hold my hand...

Stand by me...

I'm your child...

Search my heart...

Guide my feet...

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"**

By William B. Bradbury

Arranged by Stephen Walley

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**GIVING TO 1<sup>ST</sup> PRESBYTERIAN OF ROCKAWAY**

- Go to our web page (fpcrockaway.org), scroll down to “donate” and give electronically
- Mail your donation to:  
     1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian of Rockaway  
     35 Church St.  
     Rockaway, NJ 07866

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**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

Time: 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

We will not meet April 11 but will start a new study on April 18. We will be reading *The Bible Tells Me So...Why Defending Scripture Has Made Us Unable to Read It* by Peter Enns.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86468468691?pwd=Z3ZNNzJabHdKaFN0TjhrOEVBYXlqdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6846 8691

Passcode: 31716

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**Pastor Nancy will be on vacation April 5 – 22. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call the church office. We are grateful for Joe Martinoni and Carl Kline, who are sharing their gifts as preachers for April 11 and 18. Thank you!**