

Bradenton-Sarasota Congregation

April 25, 2021

Psalm 23 “The Lord is My Shepherd”

As We Gather

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9wgyNtxB9U&list=PLcjBWrNlyPzM80N4y74jhDF7DfcSaZk8E&index=15>

Gather Your Children

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=742akcxmWY&list=PLcjBWrNlyPzM80N4y74jhDF7DfcSaZk8E&index=16>

Welcome, Joys and Concerns – Sherry Lindgren

Call to Worship – Psalm 23

23 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Hymn of Assurance CCS 259 “The Lord is My Shepherd”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sQRmlB0emw>

Invocation (provided by Cheryl Craft)

Creator and Spirit and breath of life
Creator of wind and rain and sun and stars
You who are love and loved
You who enfolds us and lifts us up
We come to praise you

We come to worship you
We come to this holy moment to pour out
Our gratitude and our pain
To find your healing touch
To walk with our sisters and brothers
On this human, spiritual journey together.
May your divine Holy Spirit meet us where we are today.
That we might feel your grace, your unconditional love
In our hearts and minds
May those secret places of hurt and need be opened
To your tender mercies
May the true and perfect joy, only you can bring, fill our
Spirit to overflowing, that we can be your light to
Shine as a testimony in the world.
In Jesus name, Amen

Congregational Responsive Reading – Carolyn Deering

Leader: I am the good shepherd

Congregation: The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Leader: I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,

Congregation: Just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.

Leader: There are other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also.

Congregation: So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Leader: The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

Congregation: I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again.

ALL: I have received this command from my Father.

Prayer for Peace

Light the Peace Candle.

Statement

Each day in the Temple in Independence, we offer a prayer for peace. We pray for a different country every day. The power of our collective prayers increases when we pray together. So today as we offer a prayer for peace, visualize the multitudes praying together for one country. Visualize the power of the prayers of all of us directed toward the people of one country. Let us offer this prayer together.

Peace Prayer

O Great God, Our Friend, Our Protector,

We come before you today, joined as a community to hold up our world as we pray for its peace. We offer our love in solidarity and support for our brothers and sisters and the struggles in which they are engaged. The world that we inhabit has suffered from illness, war, famine, and unnecessary death. We pray, God, that you will look upon us and see our weakness and lift up each of us.

We ask that you guide our meditations so that we may uplift those without a faith community. Help us, O God, to be your arms and legs. Let us move the way you would have us move that we can offer hope to those without it. Bring us together in community. Bring us together as family. Hold us in your heavenly arms that we may feel the love. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to share our spirits. Thank you for letting us share our strength. We pray in Jesus' holy name.

Amen.

Hymn of Peace CCS 327

“Weave”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xy6PIXb1dhw&list=PLcjBWrNlyPzM80N4y74jhDF7DfcSaZk8E&index=105>

Focus Moment – The Quiet Book by Deborah Underwood

“There are many kinds of quiet:”

Happy quiet

Discuss the many ways that we each feel fear, peace, awe, sorrow, and hope in our own lives, and how God comforts us, celebrates with us, and gives us hope. The shepherd of the psalm, God, is described as someone who can not only lead us through the scariest of places, all the while casting aside our fear but also comfort us, filling our cups, not just until there is enough, but until they overflow with so much goodness that we can't help but share it.

Ministry of Music “Restore” written by Sherry Youngward, sung by Sherry Lindgren

Spoken Word based on Psalm 23

Disciples Generous Response

Statement: God's unconditional love

No expression of grace and generosity is as complete as the life of Jesus, God's son freely given to all. As Jesus's life and ministry showed, God's grace and love

are equally available to everyone. God's love is unwavering and not dependent on our good behavior or good works.

The gift of God's son shows God's grace and love. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:16–17). Grace expresses God's gift of eternal life and commitment to save the world.

God's astonishing generosity in the life of Jesus is the ultimate example of generosity. God loved us and we love in response to being loved. We become whole when we receive God's gift of Jesus Christ realizing that all we are and have is from God who gives freely with no strings attached.

Blessing and Receiving the Offering

Hymn of Sending Forth CCS 224 "Old Old Path"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gW1O5ljpjuc&list=PLQk5Kp29ygmTXN6FLQ0RsPr33mVqGkWAa&index=172>

Sending Forth:

I am the good Shepherd...those who build upon this rock will not fall. ...The day comes when you shall hear my voice and see me, and know that I am. Watch that you may be ready.

—Doctrine and Covenants 50:8g, adapted

Go in peace.

Postlude <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nW5qP06azj8>