

# Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
April 30, 2023

---

## Call to worship (Based on John 10:1-10)

Our Good Shepherd calls.

**He knows us each by our name.**

Our Good Shepherd leads.

**We are here to listen and to follow.**

Our Good Shepherd protects and provides.

**We give thanks and praise for our Good Shepherd.**

## Call to confession

Let us confess all that distracts and distorts God's truth, so we can know grace and forgiveness through Christ.

## Prayer of confession

Savior God, you beckon us, but we do not heed your call. You gather us, but we wander away losing ourselves in false and superficial comforts. You speak truth, but we fail to hear and respond. Good Shepherd, do not give up on us. Redeem us. Restore us. Resurrect us for life in Christ. Amen.

## Assurance of pardon

Even when we walk through the darkest valley, God is with us. God does not abandon us. Know that you are forgiven and receive Christ's peace. Alleluia. Amen.

## Prayer for illumination

Savior God, we are in awe of you and the way you guide us to the greater good. You've gifted us with the Holy Spirit as our advocate and guide. Open us to the Spirit's wisdom and truth. Open our ears, minds and hearts to your Word read and proclaimed today. May we know your truth and respond in faith. Amen.

## Scripture readings

## Sermon



## **Affirmation of faith (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.**

## **Call for the offering**

Our God provides for us as a shepherd provides for his sheep. Let us return a portion of all we have been given in gratitude for our God's generosity.

## **Prayer of dedication**

Risen and redeeming God, you have given us more than we could ever give you in return. You meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as tokens of our gratitude and bless Christ's ministry with these offerings. Amen.

## **Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer (Based on a prayer of Clement of Rome, a 1st Century bishop)**

Shepherd God, who gathers us for worship and prayer, who sustains us with the breath of life, who quenches our thirst with calm and holy waters, hear our prayers for those in need.

Grant relief to the suffering;  
Have mercy on the oppressed;  
Heal the sick;  
Raise up those who have been beaten down;  
Feed the hungry;  
Humble the proud;  
Return the lost;  
Release the captives;  
Revive those who are exhausted and weak;  
Calm the anxious;  
Comfort those who live in fear;  
Redeem our violent, warring world;



Grant us all peace.  
Ground us in your good news, O God, and help us hold on to your promises of hope. Keep our feet steady on Christ's path as we seek to be his faithful followers, praying the prayer Jesus taught us, saying: **"Our Father...."**

### **Charge and benediction**

We stand in awe of our amazing God.  
We live guided by our Good Shepherd.  
We are commissioned for service by the breath of the Holy Spirit.

We are a blessed people.  
Let us go and be a blessing to others.

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

© Presbyterian Outlook, 2023

Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott and provided  
for free distribution.

For more resources,  
visit [pres-outlook.org](https://pres-outlook.org)



**THE PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK**