

Order of Worship for April 25, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Virtual Worship



Jyoti Sahi, "Mandala of the Good Shepherd"

We Approach God

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Prelude: "The Lord Is My Shepherd" -Howard Goodall

Votum, Sentences, and Salutation

Call to Worship (from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*)

One: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

All: He lays down his life for his sheep.

One: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

All: He knows us, and we belong to him.

One: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

All: He speaks, and we listen for his voice.

Gathering Hymn: "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison): (written by Rev. Ellis Arnold)

Holy One, we hear the comforting ancient poetry of the psalmist but wonder, is it true? Will you really provide for what we need? Will you bring us to a place of rest? Will you protect us from enemies, even when they share our dinner table? We confess that rather than being only filled with holy wonder, we are also filled with skepticism at the ancient words. We can quickly tally up the times we didn't feel provided for or protected from danger. We count the times we could not catch a break when we desperately needed it. So Holy One, shepherd our busy minds back to the here and now, help our spirits forgive the grudges we hold, and invite us to experience You as truly present. In these moments of quiet, offer us rest for a moment. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Kyrie (spoken in unison):

Lord have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Words of Assurance

Summary of the Law of Love

Gloria Patri

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Psalm 23

John 10:11-18

Children's Message

Sermon: "The Shepherd King"

We Respond to God's Word

Song of Response: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Passing of the Peace (stretch your hands toward your screen if you're on video, praying God's peace on the assembly.)

Invitation to the Offering

Offerings may be made in three ways:

- Electronic transfer using Zelle to frc1850@aol.com
- Online giving at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1289239>
- Checks made out to First Reformed Church may be mailed to 18 Farragut Ave.,
Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706

Offertory: *Chichester Psalms*, II: Psalm 23, Psalm 2 vs.1-4 -Leonard Bernstein

Prayers of Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Our time of prayer concludes with 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.**

Closing Music: "The 23rd Psalm (Dedicated To My Mother)" -Bobby McFerrin

Blessing and Benediction

The space will remain open for conversation and catching up in our "virtual coffee hour."

Announcements

Mother's Day gift drive for women in Westchester shelters: Our partners at the Interfaith Caring Community are coordinating collection of gifts for women in Westchester shelters. Desired items include soap and shampoo, cosmetics, scarves and costume jewelry, small journals, mini photo frames, flashlights, key chains etc. and yes, chocolates! Indulgences, please. Items may be dropped off by May 4th in front of Sue's door in Hastings: 645 Broadway Unit #14.

Supporting local refugee families: Winter coats and boots are being collected now (as may of us put our things away for the season), so that they can be available when needed to refugee families new to the area and unequipped for our climate. These can be dropped off by April 29th at Sue's door (see above for the address). Additionally, our partners at Rivertowns for Refugees are assisting in an employment search for an Afghan man who is here on a Special Immigrant Visa, having assisted US troops in Afghanistan. Please contact Sue with any leads or opportunities.

Prison Reform Information Session hosted by Grace Episcopal Church today, Sunday, April 25th at noon via Zoom: The Social Justice Committee of Episcopal Grace Church in Hastings is holding an information session Sunday, April 25 at 12 noon, concerning two legislative bills: Elder Parole (S15/A.3475) and Fair and Timely Parole (S1415/A.4231). Grace Episcopal Church has reached out to other local congregations to invite anyone interested in learning more about prison reform to attend.

Zoom Link: Sunday April 25th Noon

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83654857647?pwd=TDFKWE5lbnlBZXl6OUpxWjBBT2ltZz09>

Meeting ID: 836 5485 7647

Passcode: 431830

Lenten Prayer Wall: Many thanks to Jen Moore Smith and Andrew Smith for crafting and installing our prayer wall! Any time during the Easter season, feel free to stop by to add your prayers. During this time, we are adding gold and yellow ribbons in the negative space around the ampersand.