



Thornbury, Ontario
Grace United Church
Bold. Nurturing. Liberal. Christian.

May 3, 2020 ~ 10:30 am
~ 4th Sunday of Easter
Leading us today in Worship

Minister:

Rev. Thérèse Samuel

Music Director:

Dr. Christopher Burton

Lay Leader:

Phyllis Fleming

We Gather...

PRELUDE *Thornbury*

~ Basil Harwood

GREETING

2 Cor 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

WELCOME

CENTERING WORDS and INTENTION-SETTING

The good shepherd calls his sheep by name.

Listen, for our shepherd is calling.

brief silence to set our intention for this time of worship

CALL TO WORSHIP

Do you need a guide?

The Lord is our shepherd.

Do you need a doorway to new life?

The Lord is our gate.

Do you need rest?

The Lord restores our souls.

Do you need care?

The Lord is our shepherd.

Come, Let us worship.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving Shepherd,

we feel the wolves close at hand.

Gather us to yourself,

that we might dwell secure in your ways.

Deliver us from evil,

that we might build a community

where all may dwell secure.

Mark our fellowship with study, prayer, communion,

and the sharing of our possessions

with those in need. Amen.

* **HYMN** Are You a Shepherd? (MV 126)

1.

***Are you a shepherd, good shepherd who leads us
safely through danger, while calming our fears?***

***Are you a father who shelters and feeds us,
shares in our laughter and wipes away tears?***

Refrain:

***Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,
but you are greater than all that we know.***

Holy and living, loving and giving,

God, you are with us wherever we go.

2.

***Are you a mother, good mother who bears us,
comforts, protects us and helps us to rest?***

***Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,
challenging students to offer their best?***

Refrain:

***Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,
but you are greater than all that we know.***

Holy and living, loving and giving,

God, you are with us wherever we go.

3.

***Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,
lead all your children in paths that are right.
Great, loving parent, wise teacher, you guide us.
We want to love you and bring you delight.***

Refrain:

***Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,
but you are greater than all that we know.
Holy and living, loving and giving,
God, you are with us wherever we go.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Christ, our shepherd and gate,
we would rather chart our own course,
than be shepherded like sheep;
we would rather find our own way,
than see you as the Way;
we would rather be shepherds than sheep,
who are vulnerable and exposed.
Forgive us when we bleat our resistance,
as you guide us to higher pastures.
Be our gate, our way to safe havens,
where we can dwell with you secure. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The one who anoints our heads with oil
the one who feeds us while our enemies look on,
the one who delivers us from evil,
invites us to dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

We Listen for God's Word to Us...

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

As we prepare to listen for what the Bible is saying to us,
let us pray:

**Gracious God, open us to receive anew
the bounty of your word.**

**Bless our senses so we too may say, like the
disciples of old, “We have experienced Jesus!
We know the risen Christ.” Amen.**

SCRIPTURE: *NRSV*

Acts 2:42-47 *The believers share everything in common*

Psalms 23 *The Lord is my Shepherd.*

1 Peter 2:19-25 *Christ’s example in suffering*

John 10:1-10 *Jesus the good shepherd.*

RESPONSE:

Keeper of our souls, when we go astray,
help us return to you,
shepherd and guardian.

May the words we have heard resonate within us
like a drum in the valley,
and may its echo never fade. Amen.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON *“Abundant Life, Abundant Living”*

* **HYMN** And On this Path (MV 8)

1.

**And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide!
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!
The gates are open wide!**

2.

**So enter in the gates of holiness are open wide,
so enter in the gates of holiness are open wide,
so enter in the gates of holiness are open wide!
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!
The gates are open wide!**

We Respond to God's Grace...

*** PROFESSION OF FAITH** *A New Creed*

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created
and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER CANDLES *You may light a candle as a prayer of joy or concern or you may place a flower, picture or something else that represents your prayer today.*

SPECIAL MUSIC *Shelter Me* ~ Michael Joncas

A Prayer-Song in the Time of the COVID-19 Pandemic

1.

***Shepherd and sheep, my God and I:
to fresh green fields you led my steps in days gone by.
You gave me rest by quiet springs
and filled my soul with peace your loving presence brings.***

Refrain:

***O shelter me, O shelter me:
The way ahead is dark and difficult to see.
O shelter me, O shelter me:
All will be well if only you will shelter me.***

2.

***Yet now I tread a diff'rent way;
Death dogs my path with stealthy steps from day to day.
I cannot find your peaceful place.
But dwell in dreary darkness, longing for your face.***



Refrain:

**O shelter me, O shelter me:
The way ahead is dark and difficult to see.
O shelter me, O shelter me:
All will be well if only you will shelter me.**

3.

**I will look back in days to come
and realize your faithfulness has led me home.
Within your house I'll find my peace,
trusting that in your mercy you have sheltered me.**

Refrain:

**O shelter me, O shelter me:
The way ahead is dark and difficult to see.
O shelter me, O shelter me:
All will be well if only you will shelter me.**

*** PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The Peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
*Think of one person with whom you would like to share the peace
of Christ. You can also share the peace by typing in the chat box.*

OFFERING *We honour all the ways we give as we dedicate our offering.*

A single stone placed in the offering plate honours all our gifts.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS AND SELF

**Holy One, touch us with the awe
that came upon those early disciples,
as they beheld the signs and wonders
performed in their midst by the apostles.**

**May the gifts we offer this day
be a remembrance of their commitment
to share all things in common.**

In Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERTORY *Little Prelude in D Minor*

~ J.S. Bach

We Go Out to Share God's Love!

* **HYMN** All the Way My Saviour Leads Me (VU 635)

1.

*All the way my Saviour leads me;
what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy
who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
here by faith in him to dwell,
for I know, what e'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.*

2.

*All the way my Saviour leads me,
cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for every trial,
feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,
and my soul athirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me,
lo, a spring of joy I see!*

3.

*All the way my Saviour leads me:
O the fullness of his love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed, immortal,
wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages,
"Jesus led me all the way!"*

*** BLESSING**

The Lord is our shepherd.

We shall not want.

In pastures green, we rest secure.

Our shepherd leads us forth.

By still waters, we rest secure.

Our shepherd brings us abundant life.

Go with the blessings of our shepherd.

*** SUNG BLESSING** Shelter Me (final refrain) ~ Michael Joncas

O shelter me, O shelter me:

The way ahead is dark and difficult to see.

O shelter me, O shelter me:

All will be well if only you will shelter me.

POSTLUDE Sonata Opus 10 #2 1st Mov't ~ Beethoven

COFFEE HOUR Join Tea at Two on Thursday via Zoom for community time.

Bring your own refreshments!

SOURCES: The following are used with permission:

(UCC): "A New Creed," The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968, alt. 1998 Centering Words, Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance, Response to Scripture, Prayer of Dedication, Sending were written by B.J. Beu, from **The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020**, © B.J. Beu.

Worship Planning 2013-2014 (Logos Productions).

From **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2020:

"Are You a Shepherd" Words by Ruth Duck, 2002; Music by William P. Rowan, 2002; Words and music © 2002 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.; used by permission, One License #608577

"And on This Path," Words by Lynn Bauman. Music by Linnea Good; © 2003 Borealis Music. Used by permission, CCLI license #11203479:

"Shelter Me," by Michael Joncas; © 2020 The Jan Michael Joncas Trust; all rights reserved; used by permission One License#608577.

"All the Way My Saviour Leads Me," Words by Fanny J Crosby 1875; Music by Robert S Lowry 1875; Public Domain.

NRSV: All Scripture Passages are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.