

First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

11:00 a.m.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Bolded words indicate unison responses from the congregation.

REFLECTION FOR WORSHIP

The following scriptures from the Revised Common Lectionary and reflection are provided for meditation as we prepare for worship.

Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

Reflection on Acts 4:5-12: *The final verse of today's text, "There is salvation in no one else (but Jesus)," is often used to divide people into two camps: those who are for Jesus and those who are not for Jesus. While the author of Acts certainly believes that God has acted decisively and uniquely in Jesus Christ, the function of this text is the opposite of division. The purpose of this passage, instead, is to announce that no human being or human authority can erect a religious tent – a temple or a church or a movement – and say, "Unless you come into my tent, you cannot have God." God has acted on behalf of the whole of humanity in Jesus Christ, and there is "no other name," no human channel, that can make exclusive claim to religious power – no denomination, no one theology, no sect, no franchise on the power of the Spirit.*

- Thomas G. Long, on the Fourth Sunday of Easter
in *Daily Feast: Meditations from Feasting on the Word, Year B*

WE GATHER

Organ Prelude:

Psalm 23 – "He Leadeth Me"

Alice Jordan

Welcome and Announcements

Patti Keenan

WE PRAISE

*Call to Worship

Our Good Shepherd has led us to this place.

He leads us beside still waters; he restores our soul.

Even though we walk through dark valleys, even though we are fearful and in need of comfort,

Our cup overflows with God's goodness and mercy;

*Hymn #462

I Love to Tell the Story

HANKEY

WE CONFESS

Call to Confession

The joy of this Easter season continues as we are called to Word and worship. Let us pause to confess our sins to our Good Shepherd.

Prayer of Confession

Savior God, you guide us, but we are slow to follow and stubborn. You welcome us to your fold, but we make others feel as if they don't belong. Forgive our life-alienating ways, our exclusion and judgment; the way we evaluate and compare, demean and degrade. Redeem us. Restore us. Help us be faithful as your flock. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Christ forgives. Christ transforms. Christ renews. Christ leads us down the path of new beginnings. We are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

***Gloria #581**

Glory Be to the Father

GREATOREX

**“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.”**

***Sharing the Paschal Greeting:**

Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed!

WE LISTEN

Prayer of Illumination:

God our helper, guide us into and through your Word, that we might be shaped by your Spirit's message to us today and transformed for service in your world. Amen.

New Testament Lesson	John 10:11-18	Pg. 872
Epistle Lesson	1 John 3:16-24	Pg. 990
Psalter Hymn #473	Psalm 23	Pam Root, Cantor
Acts of the Apostles	Acts 4:5-12	Pg. 887
Sermon	<i>Acts of Faith: Then and Now</i> What are we to do?	Rev. Payne Warner

***Affirmation of Faith**

We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.

WE DEDICATE

Call for the Offering

Humbled by God's generosity, let us offer our gifts to God and Christ's church.

Offertory Anthem:

A Canon of Praise
The Motet Choir

Natalie Sleeth

***Response of Thanksgiving #221, vs. 3** *O Sacred Head* PASSION CHORALE
*What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever; and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love for thee. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**
God, you meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our commitment to Christ's ministry. Amen.

Prayers of the People and 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;
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 #435** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* IN BABILONE

***Benediction**

Organ Postlude: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* Dale Wood

**WE SCATTER TO CONTINUE OUR WORSHIP
IN SERVING OTHERS**

A warm welcome is extended to all who worship today.
May the gift of worship we offer honor God and serve as a blessing to you.



WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Payne Warner
Patti Keenan

THE MUSIC TODAY

Prof. Larry Harris, Director of Music/Organist
The Motet Choir

ALSO SERVING TODAY

Ushers: John Einfalt, Wilma Miller
Facilities Staff: David Phibbs

WORSHIP NOTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly Reminders:

- We are still collecting items for **RAHAB Ministries**. Please place donations in the box in the Narthex.
- Please submit **prayer requests** on the cards in the pew racks or by emailing pastor@fpcyo.org.
- Remember to sign the **Friendship pads**. They help keep track of people who may need assistance.
- Coin offerings go to support the **Red Door Café** at **St. John's Episcopal Church**.
- We will next celebrate **Communion** on **Sunday, May 5**.

Community Events:

- **The Sacred Music Fest** is **today**, Sunday, 4/21, from 4-6pm at New Bethel Baptist Church. Pastor Warner will be there, and there will be a cookie table.
- **Taste of the Faiths** will be on Sunday, May 16, from 5:30-7pm at St. Charles Parish Hall in Boardman.

Prayer Requests:

- Bob Fitch
- Leeann Comstock
- Martin Goss
- Terry Murray
- Rick Benson
- Bridget Benson
- Cindy Milicich
- Barb Altman