

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SHREWSBURY

Fourth Sunday of Easter

ONLINE

May 3, 2020

Welcome

Prelude “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

L. Larson

***Hymn** “Gathering Song in a Time of Quarantine”

1. Come, Christ and be our host, our guest. With - in your
2. Come, Christ and hold us in your care. Bring ten - der
3. Come, Christ and walk us through this hour. Give wis - dom
4. Come, Christ and hear the song of praise we sing with
pres - ence we are_ blessed. Though now in ex - ile, we are
love to times that scare. Be by our side when we're not
to the ones with power. Be close to all who tend and
grate - ful voi - ces_ raised. Though scat-tered far, we sing as
found! Your ris - en glo - ry will sur - round,
strong, pro - vid - ing hope to car - ry on.
heal. To those who fall, new life re - veal.
one to tell of ris - en life be - gun.

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Tune: O WALY WALY, English folk tune

Call to Worship *(after Psalm 23)*

Leader: Let us pray these familiar words,
recognizing in the Risen Christ our Good Shepherd:

**All: Jesus, you are our shepherd.
We shall never want.**

**You make us lie down in green pastures;
you lead us beside the still waters.
You restore our souls.**

**You guide us in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake.
Even though we may walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
we fear no evil, for you, Christ, comfort us.**

**Jesus has prepared a table for us
in the presence of our foes;
Jesus has anointed us with the oil of salvation;
our cup runs over!**

**Surely, goodness and mercy will follow us
all the days of our lives,
And we will dwell in the house
of our Holy Savior forever and ever. Amen.**

Confession

Leader: Merciful and Loving God, we ask forgiveness because our consciousness of you is dimmed by everyday desires and needs.

ALL: Raise our consciousness of you, O God.

We forget that we are a reflection of your image. We act as though you are a Sunday-only event.

Increase our mindfulness of you, O God.

Help us to a greater common awareness of your deep mystery and infinite presence.

Rouse our awareness of you, God.

Open our eyes from surface focus to depth perception. Turn our heads from shallow concerns to eternal truths.

Awaken us from faint-heartedness, O God.

Forgive us for our narrow and selfish ways. Save us from cheap grace with your amazing grace.
Forgive us, O God. We ask in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Time With Children

Lessons: John 10:1-10

Sermon: “Radical Love”

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory “Blessed Assurance”

J. Knapp

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low

Praise Holy Spirit evermore

One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen

Prayer of Dedication

Thank you, Risen Christ, for moving the hearts of the people to give of themselves.

May our offerings of service and financial support give voice to your work for justice and peace in this world. May we grow more mindful of you through our giving and our living. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

For Holy Communion this morning, ... Give the gentle Shepherd who is the Risen Christ your bread, your cup and your heart.

We have bread and cup and heart. Our church community is dispersed in distance but we are one in Christ. In your many kitchens, and living rooms, rest your hands lightly upon these elements which we set aside today to be a sacrament. Let us ask God’s blessing upon them and upon us and upon those who are in our prayers this morning.

Unison:

Gentle Host, you prepare a table before us in the threatening presence of virus. You anoint our hearts, bless our bread and our cups overflow. Surely as we shelter in place we find both the goodness of community and mercy to those most vulnerable. Now and all the days of our lives we claim that this house — these many houses where we dwell and also our precious church building, are, indeed, the house of God.

Send your Spirit of life and love, power and blessing upon your children who are staying at home so that this Bread may be broken and gathered in love and this Cup poured out to give hope to all. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you. Amen.

Words of Remembering

Sharing of the Elements

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

Unison: We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

Unison: We are one in Christ in the cup we share.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of grace, rejoicing that, in the holy dispersion of virtual worship, we claim the risen Christ's love is not limited by buildings made with human hands, nor contained in human ceremonies, and celebrating the God's shepherding that carries us into the unknown, to listen and follow, to lead and be led, to feed and be fed.

Unison: (May be sung or spoken)

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need your tender care.

In your pleasant pastures feed us for our use your folds prepare.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

***Hymn "Blessed Assurance"**

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood

Chorus:

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Benediction

Postlude "Pastorale"

C. Wesley