



J. J. WHITE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024 * 10:30 AM

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Cassie Alston

Prelude

Way Maker

arr. John Cumberland

Introit

He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought

HE LEADETH ME

Call to Worship

Come, walk in green pastures.

We follow Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd.

Come, lie down in green pastures.

We trust in Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd.

Come, dine at the table of abundance.

We are fed by Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd.

Come, dwell in God's house.

We live in the Shepherd's care.

Opening Prayer

We are your people, O God – the sheep of your pasture, the flock you have gathered. Lead us beside still waters, teach us the way of righteousness, and feed us at your table; through Jesus Christ, our good shepherd. **Amen.**

*Hymn No. 130

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

Call to Confession

All of us, like sheep, have gone astray. Let us return to the shepherd and guardian of our souls. Trusting in the grace of God made known in Jesus Christ, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Good Shepherd, we take your care for granted. In the midst of your many blessings, we complain of not having enough. In the presence of danger, we fail to trust in your abiding love. When you set a table before us, we turn aside from you. Call us back into your care and help us trust your caring presence, that our actions may proclaim your truth and love. **Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

The Good Shepherd laid down his life for us, died, and is risen. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

Word

Prayer for Illumination

Lord God, Good Shepherd, by the leading of your Spirit, help us to listen for your voice and follow in your paths all the days of our lives; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Scripture: Psalm 23; John 10:11-18

Sermon

The Good Shepherd

Rev. Cassie Alston

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Hymnal, p. 14

*Hymn No. 805 (Gloria Patri)

Glory Be to the Father

GREATOREX

*Hymn No. 522 (1,4)

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

BRADBURY

The Invitation to the Offering

1 John 3:17

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the goods of the world and sees a brother or sister in need, yet refuses to help? With love for God and neighbor, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Offertory

Wonderful Words of Life

arr. Cindy Berry

*Hymn No. 809 (Doxology)

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have shown us the meaning of love through Jesus Christ, who gave his life for us. Show us how to share Christ's love by giving our lives for one another; to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Sending

***Hymn No. 612 (1, 3, 5)**

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

***Charge and Benediction**

In the name of the Good Shepherd, let us love one another. May the goodness and mercy of God follow you all the days of your life, and, at your life's end, may you dwell in the house of the LORD forever. **Amen.**

Postlude

All Hail the Power of Jesus Name

Oliver Holden

***Please stand as you are able.**

Announcements

Welcome to worship!

All who worship here are joyfully welcomed into our midst! To our visitors, we offer a special welcome and invite you to join us again soon. Please fill out the blue card in your pew and place it in the offering plate when passed.

Welcome to our guest pianist!

We extend a grateful and joyful welcome to our guest pianist Beverly Miller.

Picnic on the Green: Today following worship!

White Elephant Sale: May 1, 2024

All are invited to a White Elephant sale on Wednesday, May 1 at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Members and friends may bring one, two, or three items to the Fellowship Hall from 1:00-3:00 PM on May 1. With possible exceptions, items will be offered at nominal prices. Proceeds will be donated to the church. Food and refreshments will be served, and an untrained and rude auctioneer will be present. Please come for the fun and fellowship!

Address for Mary Ann and Tommy Ratcliff

We continue to pray for Mary Ann and Tommy Ratcliff as Mary Ann heals from surgery in Jacksonville. Tommy has provided their address, and many of us would like to send cards and letters. Mary Ann is on a restricted diet and cannot be exposed to flowers, so **please do not send food or flowers**. Cards and letters may be sent to the following address:

Mary Ann and Tommy Ratcliff
5000 Cernan Blvd. S, Apt. 108
Jacksonville, FL 32224

Record from Last Sunday

Attendance: 50

Offering: \$10,170.32

This Week at J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian

Wednesday, 4/24	7:15 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
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Upcoming Events

Sunday, 4/28	10:30 AM	Worship
Wednesday, 5/1	5:30 PM	White Elephant Sale (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, 5/5	10:30 AM	Worship (Communion) MICA Sunday

Questions for Reflection: What does it mean to lay down our lives for one another (1 John 3:16)? Think about people who have been "good shepherds" for you, sharing the love and showing the way of Jesus Christ. Who has helped lead you in right paths or walked with you in dark valleys? Who has given you comfort and calmed your fears? Who has shown you hospitality and grace, making a place at the table for you, even when you felt surrounded by enemies? How have you done these things for others?

Household Prayer: Morning

Good shepherd, walk beside me through the joy and trouble of this day, and lead me in right paths for your name's sake. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Good shepherd, remain with me in the dark and stillness of this night, and let me lie down in safety to restore my soul. Amen.

(Long, Kimberly Bracken, ed. *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year B, vol. 1*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014, p. 120-121.)

Sanctuary Flowers: The sanctuary flowers are given by Nancy and Harrell Ables.

J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

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Church office open **Monday – Friday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**