

The Fourth Sunday in Easter
April 25th, 2021

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord: I know my own and my own know me. *John 10.14*



Collect

O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Celebrant: Dear friends we gather this morning on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Nation.

All: **May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.**

Opening Responses

O God, who called life into being **the earth, sea and sky are yours.**

Your presence is all around us, **every atom is full of your energy.**

Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth, **with her we yearn for justice to be done.**

For creation to be freed from bondage, **for the hungry to be fed.**

For captives to be released, **for your kingdom of peace to come on earth.**

Hymn: #225 “Come Away to the Skies”

Come away to the skies my beloved arise, and rejoice in the day you were born on this festival day, come exulting away, and with singing to Zion return.

Hallelujah we sing to the heaven’s high King, and our rapturous praises repeat: To the Lamb that was slain, hallelujah again, sing all heaven, and fall at his feet.

Collect of the Day

O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

Hymn #519 “The Lord’s My Shepherd”

The Lord’s my shepherd I’ll not want, he makes me down to lie
In pastures green he leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, even for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill,
For thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me,
And in God's house for ever more my dwelling place shall be.

A Reading from Acts 4: 5-12

The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone." Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

Hear what the Spirit is saying the Church **Thanks be to God.**

A Reading from 1 John 3: 16-24

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his

presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Hear what the Spirit is saying the Church **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John 10: 11-18**
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

Hymn: "Touch the Earth Lightly

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently, nourish the life of the world in our care: Gift of great wonder, ours to surrender, trust for the children tomorrow will bear

God of all living, God of all loving, God of the seedling, the snow and the sun, Teach us, deflect us, Christ re-connect us, using us gently, and making us one.

Prayers of Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and people are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need. Help us love one another in truth and actions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you. Bring us, with them, to dwell on your house forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer for Creation

Forgive us, Lord God our Creator

In haste and hunger for progress we have laid waste the good earth you have made.

We have mined landscapes, spoiled coastlines and polluted air and water.

We have brought health and wealth to some and suffering and deprivation to others, exploiting the earth and threatening its creatures.

Make us hungry now for generosity and balance. Make us brave enough to choose more wisely for the future of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us we bold to say.

**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 trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen**

The Peace

The Lord calls us to be united among ourselves. He gives us his peace and invites us to share it. Let us exchange a sign of his peace with our neighbours. The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Blessing

The Dismissal

Hymn: #444 "Your Hand, O God Has Guided"

Your hand, O God, has guided, your flock from age to age;
The wondrous tale is written, full clear on every page.

Our forebears owned your goodness and we their deeds record,
And both of this bear witness one church, one faith, one Lord.

Your mercy will not fail us, nor leave your work undone;
With your right hand to help us, your people shall be one;
And then, by all creation, your name shall be adored,
And this shall be their anthem: one church, one faith, one Lord.

Go in strong and growing faith. Trust in the tenderness of Christ to heal a
bruised and broken world.

Thanks be to God.

Go in eager and refreshing hope. Work with Christ risen from the dead, to
fulfill the promise of a new creation.

Thanks be to God.

God in costly and courageous love. Proclaim the power of Christ to cleanse
a defiled and disfigured world.

Thanks be to God.

Go in peace, to treasure and to tend the world made and loves.

In the name of Christ. Amen

Go forth in the name of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

The Church Goes Into the World

Please Remember in Prayer

THE CHURCH Welcoming Team and it's Chair

DIOCESE OF OTTAWA St. Mark the Evangelist, Ottawa, the Reverend Julian Campbell; Parish of Pakenham, St. Mark's, Pakenham, St. John's, Antrim, St. George's, Waba, All those who minister there; For the Chaplain of the Ottawa Fire Department, The Reverend Canon John Bridges.

ANGLICAN COMMUNION The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

OUR PARISH FAMILY Betty Burton, Linda Buttle, Yvette Carr

LOCAL CHURCHES Elgin Street Baptist

THE WORLD For the peace of Jerusalem, for peace & justice in Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Syria, Egypt, Ukraine. For those suffering from deadly diseases and all medical workers.

CANADA For our Queen, for Canada, our Prime Minister and Parliament; our Province, its Premier and Legislature; for our Armed Forces and their families.

ARNPRIOR AND AREA For our local communities, their leaders, and councils.

THOSE IN NEED The sick: David, Heather, John, Jim, Glen, Mary, Bob, Betty, Louise, Chris, Lauren, Margaret, Rob, Janet, Doreen, Audrey, Katharine, Roland, Alana, Susan, Bonnie, Yvette, Donna, Ryan, Doug, Neill, William, Judy, Bev, Lawrence, Dorothy, Margaret, Joyce, Andrew, Reid, Edna **If there are any names to be added to or removed from this list, please contact the Church Office or use the form provided.** *Note: In order to respect privacy, ensure that you have received permission from the person(s) named.*

THE DEPARTED That they may dwell with all the Saints in the light and peace of our Risen Lord. Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, **and let light perpetual shine upon them.** *Please remember them in silence. If you wish to add a name for the leaflet, contact the Parish Office.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to our worship today. For the next two weeks we will be hosting Zoom services. At the end of the service, please feel free to greet one another in Christ.

Worship: There will be no in-person worship until further notice.

Sunday services are being recorded and posted to You Tube following the service. Printed copies of the bulletin and announcements are provided in the box outside the office door. Feel free to come and pick up your copy any day.

Donation Envelopes are available for pick up on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9am and 4pm.

Seniors' Centre Without Walls is offering free telephone group activities to seniors and adults with disabilities in Renfrew County. For more information on programs being offered please contact the church office or info@renfrehomesupport.ca

Seniors at Home are looking for volunteers to help seniors place online orders at No Frills. To sign up or for more information, please contact: Guy Robitaille 613-296-2815, grobitaill57@gmail.com or Kimberly O'Brien 613-656-8588, kimberly@gatewaychurch.ca

Food Bank donations may be dropped off at Arnprior and District Food Bank, 259 Albert St., Arnprior (St. John Chrysostom Church basement) Call or email to make a drop off appointment (613-668-4462, arnpriorfoodbank@gmail.com)

PREAUTHORIZED REMITTANCE (PAR) is available for your church offerings. Please contact Envelope Secretary, Paula Wheeler 613-623-2554.

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