



1 JOHN 3:18

**LET US LOVE NOT IN WORD OR
SPEECH BUT IN TRUTH & ACTION**

April 21, 2024

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF TOPEKA**

Loving God, loving neighbors, and living with purpose

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April 21, 2024

Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Where you see an asterisk (), please rise in body or spirit.*

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC (10:30) — “Sheep May Safely Graze” — J. S. Bach, arr. E. P. Biggs

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE (8:30) — “Sheep May Safely Graze” — J. S. Bach, arr. E. P. Biggs

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(10:30) — “Resignation” (“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”) — C. Callahan

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*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We were lost and going astray.

People: **The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside the still waters.**

Leader: But now we return to our shepherd.

People: **He restores my soul.
He leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

Leader: We have heard the call of the guardian of our souls.

People: **Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil, for thou art with me.**

Leader: This is the gate of our shepherd, the door to eternal life.

People: **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

*OPENING PRAYER

***OPENING HYMN #267 — “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”**

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask for your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Do not cast us away from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

SILENT CONFESSION and KYRIE — #578

**O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us.
O Christ, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy, have mercy on us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***THE GLORIA — #581**

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.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

MINISTRY OF MUSIC (10:30 only) — “The Lord Is My Shepherd” — Thomas Matthews

© 1956 H.T. Fitzsimons Co.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — John 10:11-18 — pg. 103 in NT

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — 1 John 3:16-24 — pg. 240 in NT

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE — “How Will I Know?”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

***HYMN #803 — “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” (10:30 only)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

Offertory (8:30) — “Resignation” (“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”) —

Charles Callahan

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(10:30) — “He Shall Feed His Flock” (from *Messiah*) — G. F. Handel

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***Doxology — #607**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise triune God, whom we adore.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

WE DEPART IN JOY TO SERVE

***SENDING HYMN #697— “Take My Life”** (8:30 vv 1,3, and 6)

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION — All- Church Prayer** (see insert)

***CHORAL BENEDICTION — “Amen, Alleluia”** — Douglas Wagner

© 1984 Beckenhorst Press

POSTLUDE (8:30) — “Fanfare in C Major” — Charles Ore

© 1981 Augsburg Publishing House

(10:30) — **“Fanfare”** — Paul Dukas, arr. Robert Gower

© 1998 Oxford University Press

Chancel flowers provided by Susan Frydrych Palmer in honor of Joe and Beverly Frydrych, on what would have been their 70th wedding anniversary. Joe and Beverly were married at First Presbyterian Church.

Ministers: All the Members of the Congregation

Pastors:

The Rev. Sandra Stogsdill Nichols, *Pastor*

Patrick Yancey, *Commissioned Associate Pastor*

The Rev. Dr. Neil Weatherhogg, *Pastor Emeritus*

Liturgist: Melanie McQuere

Music Staff:

Dr. Kevin Kellim, *Director of Music*

Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans, *Organist*

Dr. Cynthia Neufeld Smith, *Assistant Organist*

Norma Pettijohn, *Organist Emeritus*

Soloist: Elliot Lauxman

Fellowship Host: Deacons

Audio/Video: Treven Broxterman, Will Hartner

Assistant to the Pastors: Treven Broxterman

Director of Maintenance: Mark Ingle

Family Ministries Coordinator: Herman Jones

Office Assistant: Patty Foster

Sunday Custodian: Steve Johnson

Childcare Attendants:

Becky Foster, Samantha Edwards,

Maresella Newton

Stephen Ministry Leaders:

John Dorsey, Jane Owen



8:30 service on April 14, 2024
Photo by Herman Jones