

Prelude

Announcements

Opening Hymn

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands
2 Christ is - a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 Not throned a - bove, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -
4 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where co - lor,
5 Christ is a - live! His Spi - rit burns through this and

1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the
3 moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the
4 scorn or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet
5 ev - ery fu - ture age, till all cre - a - tion

1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.
2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.
3 midst of life, our Sa - vior with the Fa - ther reigns.
4 loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.
5 lives and learns his joy, his jus - tice, love, and praise.

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Music: *Truro*, melody from *Psalmody Evangelica, Part II*, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Venite

sung by a cantor

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray. O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

People: Amen.

The First Lesson

Lector: A Reading from Acts

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common;

they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me*

1 The Lord is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *

and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil; *

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Second Lesson

Lector: A Reading from First Peter

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn



1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good-ness
 2 Where streams of liv-ing wa-ter flow, my ran-somed
 * 3 Per-verse and fool-ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 * 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear
 5 Thou spread'st a ta-ble in my sight; thy unc-tion
 6 And so through all the length of days thy good-ness



1 fail-eth nev-er; I noth-ing lack if
 2 soul he lead-eth, and where the ver-dant
 3 love he sought me, and on his shoul-der
 4 Lord, be-side me; thy rod and staff my
 5 grace be-stow-eth; and oh, what trans-port
 6 fail-eth nev-er: Good Shep-herd, may I



1 I am his, and he is mine for ev-er.
 2 pas-tures grow, with food ce-less-tial feed-eth.
 3 gent-ly laid, and home, re-joic-ing, brought me.
 4 com-fort still, thy cross be-fore to guide me.
 5 of de-light from thy pure chal-ice flow-eth!
 6 sing thy praise with-in thy house for ev-er.

Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877); para. of Psalm 23 Music: *St. Columba*, Irish melody; harm. *Hymnal 1982*

The Gospel

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ According To John

People: Glory to You, O Christ.

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Deacon: The Gospel of Our Savior.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Homily

Poem

The Showings: Lady Julian of Norwich, 1342-1416 by Denise Levertov

Part 6

Julian laughing aloud, glad
with a most *high inward happiness*,

Julian open calmly to dismissive judgments
flung backward down the centuries-
"delirium", "hallucination";

Julian walking under-water
on the green hills of moss, the detailed sand and seaweed,
pilgrim of the depths, unfearing;

twenty year later carefully retelling
each unfading vision,
each pondered understanding;

Julian of whom we know
she had two serving-maids, Alice and Sara,
and kept a cat, and looked God in the face
and lived--

Julian nevertheless
said that *deeds are done so evil, injuries inflicted
so great, it seems to us
impossible any good can come of them—*

any redemption, then, transform them ...

She lived in dark times, as we do:
war, and the Black Death, hunger, strife,
torture, massacre. She knew
all of this, she felt it
*sorrowfully, mournfully,
shaken as men shake
a cloth in the wind.*

But Julian, Julian--

I turn to you:

you clung to joy though tears and sweat
rolled down your face like the blood
you watched pour down *in beads uncountable
as rain from the eaves:*
clung like an acrobat, by your teeth, fiercely,
to a cobweb-thin high-wire, your certainty
of infinite mercy, witnessed
with your own eyes, with outward sight
in your small room, with inward sight
in your untrammelled spirit--
knowledge we long to share:
Love was his meaning.

from *Breathing the Water* (New Directions, 1987)

3 Questions:

- What is the “Christ-shaped gate” that you travel through as you move between time set aside for God and worldly concerns?

- Whose voices do you hear, and in what ways do they help you to know that you're part of a flock?
- What is love making you aware of, and calling you to do?

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn

1 Sa - vior, like a shep - herd lead us; much we need thy
2 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us

ten - der care; in thy plea - sant pas - tures feed us;
learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our on - ly Sa - vior,

for our use thy folds pre - pare. Bless - ed Je - sus!
with thy love our bos - oms fill. Bless - ed Je - sus!

Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast loved us: love us still.

Words: *Hymns for the Young*, ca. 1830, alt. Music: *Sicilian Mariners*, Sicilian melody, from *The European Magazine and London Review*, 1792

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor: In joy and hope let us pray to God. That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That we may be granted humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That we may help provide for those who lack food, work or shelter we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That war and famine may cease throughout the world, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That the light and presence of divinity may be revealed to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That, according to the promise, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That the fire of the Holy Spirit may descend upon the people, so that we may bear faithful witness to the resurrection, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: God, you are beyond our understanding, yet you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Please join us for **Coffee Hour Questions: Growing as Disciples from Our Homes** by following this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/93054661025?pwd=aEhtdkszYzRveVhVSUVOb2Y0VHhMUT09>