

# The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | 11:00 AM | APRIL 30, 2023

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin  
Senior Minister

## MUSIC OF PREPARATION

*The Love of God*  
arr. Mark Hayes

Dr. Judy Hames  
Organ

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 23* (NRSV)

The Rev. Allyson Lawrence and **People**  
Associate Minister

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff-- they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

## \*HYMN 136

*The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want*

CRIMOND

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*from Romans 8:35, 37-39*

Rev. Lawrence and **People**

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?  
Shall tribulation or distress,  
or persecution or famine,  
or nakedness or peril or sword?

No!

In all things we are more than conquerors  
through the One who loved us.

We are sure that neither  
death nor life,  
nor angels, nor principalities,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.

UMH 887

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

MEINEKE

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. Amen.

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Dr. Martin and People

Offer one another signs of reconciliation and love:  
"The peace of Christ be with you." **"And also with you."**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Rev. Lawrence and People

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

**FIRST READING**

1 Peter 2:19-25

Rev. Lawrence

<sup>19</sup>For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CONGREGATIONAL NOTES, PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Rev. Lawrence

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**\*HYMN 138**

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

ST. COLUMBA

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Dr. Martin

**OFFERTORY**

*Draw us in the Spirit's Tether*  
Harold Friedell

Chancel Choir

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name  
two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now your garment's hem.*

*As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,  
then with thanks to God the giver break the bread and bless the cup,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! So now bind our friendship up.*

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of you,  
that by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve with faith anew.

**\*DOXOLOGY**

OLD 100th

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above,  
ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Dr. Martin

Children ages 4 years through 2nd grade are invited to attend Wonders of Worship in Room B225.

Children 3rd grade and older are encouraged to stay in the sanctuary for the service.

The nursery is available for infants through 3 years.

**\*GOSPEL READING**

John 10:1-10

Rev. Lawrence

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. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Dr. Martin

**\*HYMN 549**

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

ST. PETER

**\*BENEDICTION**

Dr. Martin

May the peace of Christ go with you wherever He may send you.  
May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.  
May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.  
May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our arms.

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Prelude and Fugue in C Major BWV 553*  
JS Bach

Dr. Hames

\*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Van Askew  
Nancy Byers  
Richard Clayton  
Karen Davis

Robbie Gray  
Martha Hale  
Don Harp  
Tangie Hubbard

Cindy Jennings  
Doris Kerlin  
Sara Reams  
Claudia Rhodes

Brenda Tierman  
Helen Voyles  
Julie Watson

**The rosebud in the sanctuary today is presented to the glory of God and in celebration of the birth of Harper Louise Moore on March 11, 2023. Parents are Mike and Brandi Moore; grandmother is Cindy Beale; and great grandmother is Trudy Whittington.**

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Scripture quotations from New Revised Standard Version  
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AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM;  
Wednesdays through Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

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