



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

March 20, 2022
3rd Sunday of Lent

REFLECTION

Descent to the Cross: I Am the Good Shepard

Alone even in a crowd, We look for love,
We long for someone to care,
Someone to hold and protect our fragile selves.
Christ came into the world to throw his arms around us;
a Shepherd, he came to carry us gently.
But we despised him, crucified him,
And counted him rejected by God.
Yet, by the power of the Holy Spirit
He rose from the dead:
he called, and we recognized his voice;
alone, we ran to him
for cover, for love, for everlasting peace.
Good Shepherd, Lamb of God, we are yours,
And gladly sing your praise!

.....

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn

Good Shepherd Of My Soul

Good Shepherd of my soul
Come dwell within me
Take all I am and mould
Your likeness in me
Before the cross of Christ
This is my sacrifice
A life laid down and ready to follow

The troubled find their peace
In true surrender
The prisoners their release
From chains of anger

In springs of living grace
I find a resting place
To rise refreshed and ready to follow

I'll walk this narrow road
With Christ before me
Where thorns and thistles grow
And cords ensnare me
Though doubted and denied
He never leaves my side
But lifts my head and calls me to follow

And when my days are gone
My strength is failing
He'll carry me along
Through death's unveiling
Earth's struggles overcome
Heaven's journey just begun
To search Christ's depths and ever to follow
To search Christ's depths and ever to follow

— God + calls + cleanses + speaks + strengthens + sends —

Call to Worship

Psalm 95:1-7

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the LORD is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,

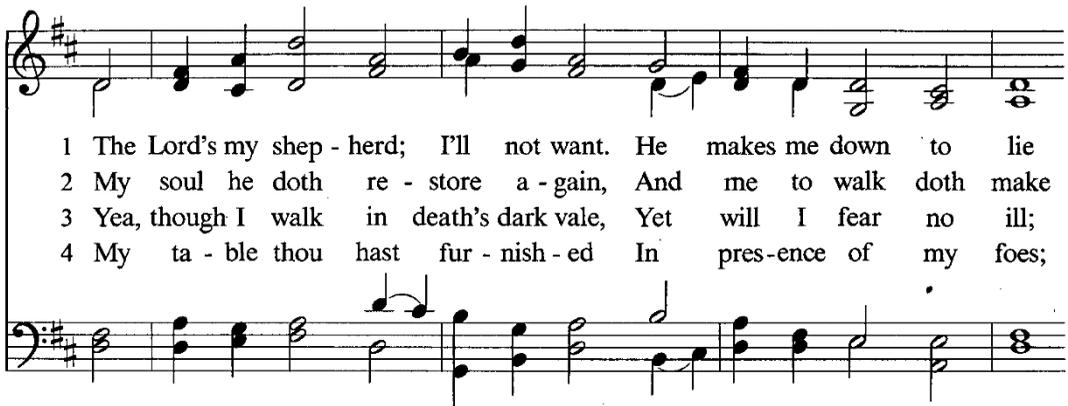
and his hands formed the dry land.

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

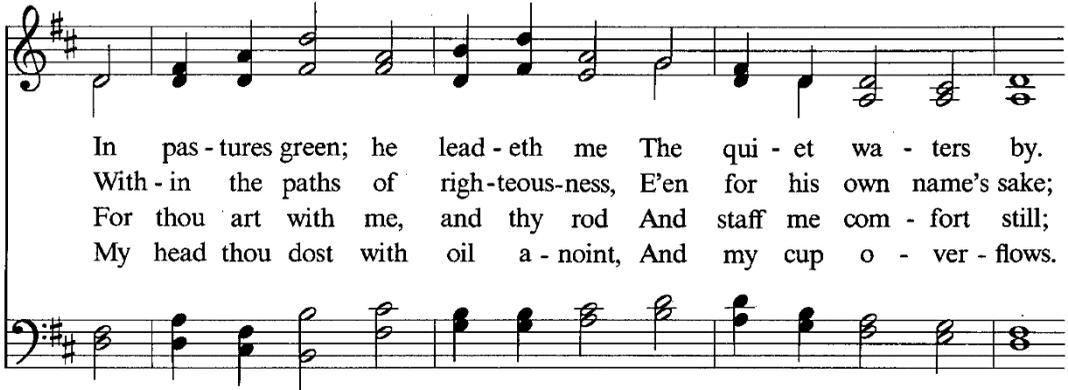
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

For he is our God,

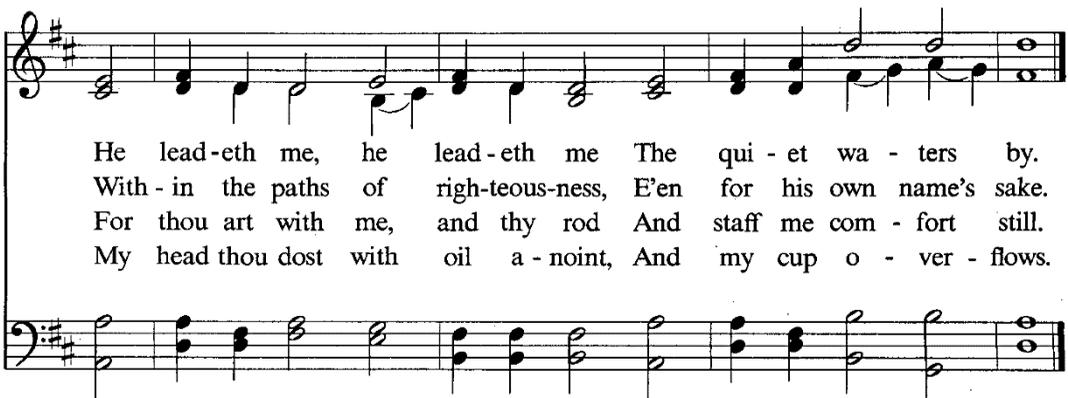
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.



1 The Lord's my shep - herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
 2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, And me to walk doth make
 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
 4 My ta - ble thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres - ence of my foes;



In pas - tures green; he lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.
 With - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, E'en for his own name's sake;
 For thou art with me, and thy rod And staff me com - fort still;
 My head thou dost with oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.
 With - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, E'en for his own name's sake.
 For thou art with me, and thy rod And staff me com - fort still.
 My head thou dost with oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.

5 Goodness and mercy all my life
 Shall surely follow me,
 And in God's house forevermore
 My dwelling-place shall be.

Invocation

New Testament Lesson Luke 15:1-7

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Praise Hymn

The Lord's My Shepherd

— God + calls + cleanses + speaks + strengthens + sends —

Confession of Sin (based on Isaiah 53)

O Lord, forgive me; **for I have despised and forsaken you.**

It was I who made you a man of sorrows, **and acquainted with grief.**

It was I who hid my face from you;

I despised you, and counted you nothing.

O Lord, you yourself bore my griefs, **and carried my sorrows;**

I counted you stricken, **smitten by God, and afflicted.**

But you were wounded for my transgressions;

you were crushed for my sins.

The Chastening for my well-being fell upon you;

and it was by your scourging that I am healed.

Like a foolish sheep, I have gone astray;

I have turned—like all the rest—to my own way.

But the Lord has laid on you every bit of my guilt.

Have mercy on me, Lord Jesus, for I am grieved by my offenses. Amen.

Individual Confession

Absolution John 10:11-16

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Thanksgiving Hymn

Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended

1. Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed,
 2. Who was the guilt - y who brought this up - on thee?
 3. Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered;
 4. For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion,
 5. There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee,

that man to judge thee hath in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de -
 A - las, my trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord
 • the slave hath sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered: for man's a -
 thy mor - tal sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion: thy death of
 I do a - dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee, think on thy

rid - ed, by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
 Je - sus, I it was de - nied thee: I cru - ci - fied thee.
 • tone - ment, while he noth - ing heed - eth, God in - ter - ced - eth.
 an - guish and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 pit - y and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Old Testament Lesson Ezekiel 34:1-2, 4-5, 11-13, 15-16, 22-24

Peace of Christ The peace of the Lord be with you!
And also with you!

The Gospel Song

Holy God in love became, Perfect Man to bear my blame
On the cross He took my sin, By His death I live again

— God + calls + cleanses + speaks + strengthens + sends —

Sermon Pastor Henrique Rossi

Response Hymn Holy Holy Holy / Santo! Santo! Santo!

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty
Early in the morning my song shall rise to thee
Holy, holy, holy, Merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity

Santo! Santo! Santo! Deus onipotente!
Cedo de manhã cantaremos teu louvor.
Santo! Santo! Santo! Deus Jeová triúno,
És um só Deus, excelso Criador.

Holy, holy, holy Lord God almighty
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea
Holy, holy, holy Merciful and mighty
You are God in three persons, blessed Trinity

Santo! Santo! Santo! Deus onipotente!
Tuas obras louvam teu nome com fervor.
Santo! Santo! Santo! Justo e compassivo,
És um só Deus, supremo Criador.

— God + calls + cleanses + speaks + strengthens + sends —

Bringing Our Life to God

Prayers | Collection | Profession

Prayers of the People

Collection

Text **MNA 1708 to 76959** and follow the prompts
or visit give.pcamna.org/to/1708/

Psalm 137



By the wa - ters, the wa - ters of Bab - y - lon,
we sat down and wept, and wept for Zi - on.
We re-mem-ber, we re-mem-ber, we re-mem-ber Zi - on.

Confession of Faith The Apostle's Creed (1st Century)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into Hell;
the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty;
from there He shall come 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 life everlasting. Amen.

*that is, the universal church

Communion in Christ Jesus

All Christians are invited to receive Christ's presence of bread and wine. When directed please take your bulletin, stand and form a circle around the worship space. Whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle. If you are not able to stand, please move your chair into the circle. We serve wine in the outer rings of the tray in the Lord's Supper, believing it to be the Biblical element used. We provide grape juice in the inner rings for those who, out of conscience or for health, do not drink wine.

Communion Hymn King Of Love (Vs 1-4)

The King of Love my Shepherd is
Whose goodness faileth never
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth

Chorus

Never failing Ruler of my heart
Everlasting Lover of my soul
On the mountain high or in the valley low
The King of Love my Shepherd is
The King of Love my Shepherd is

Lost and foolish off I strayed
But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid
And home rejoicing brought me

In death's dark veil I fear no ill
With Thee dear Lord beside me
Thy rod and staff my comfort still
Thy cross before to guide me

Chorus

Prayer for those searching

Oh God, I am discovering that the more I have, the more I need to have, the more I am loved, the more I need to be loved, the more I achieve, the more I need to achieve. Nothing seems to satisfy me. Could it be, as someone once said, that “Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee.” Dear God, if this is true, and if as the Bible teaches there is life and life eternal in Christ alone, please guide me to Him. Open me to the reality of the One who alone can satisfy my restless heart. Give me the courage to believe that which I cannot see but can understand, feel and touch through the Word, sacraments and church family. Lord I want to believe, help my unbelief! Amen.

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Coronation Hymn

King Of Love (Vs 5)

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never
Good Shepherd may I sing Your praise
Within Your house forever

Chorus

Never failing Ruler of my heart
Everlasting Lover of my soul
On the mountain high or in the valley low
The King of Love my Shepherd is
The King of Love my Shepherd is

Benediction

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

REFLECTION

Being a Sheep

We have spoken of those people who make use of the love of God as a means of wriggling away from religion, and who smile at the whole thing. But there are others who do not smile. They are never many in number. Jesus gives figurative expression to this in the parable when He speaks of the one and the ninety and nine. Listen now, you lonely, fearful, lost soul: Jesus loves you. “No, He does not love me,” you say. “He is angry with me. And rightfully so. I... sin against Him.” Yes, you are right. If you were to receive according to what you have merited, you would have nothing to hope for. However, Jesus has taken upon Himself that which you should have suffered. “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5 Such is His love toward you. That is why He was so grieved when you went away from Him. He has sought you day and night. Have you not heard Him call? Yes, you have. And it makes you restless. It is then that sin becomes such a burden to you. It is then that you begin to long for God, for reconciliation and forgiveness. But how shall I find the way to God? You ask. That you cannot do. Nor has God asked you to do that. It is He who seeks you. And now He has found you. Now the only question is: Will you yield and not run away from Him any more? If so, He will lay you on His shoulder and carry you home. That is what it means to be converted.

—Ole Hallesby, *God's Word For Today* (1937)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group | We will meet tonight (March 20th) at the Alburger's for a Bible study and community meal! Check weekly email for a sign up link to bring a dish, drink or side. (**Next Week (3/27):**) we plan to join Pastor Henrique's church, Christ Is Life PCA for their worship service at 6pm at 2475 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield CT 06825.

Men's Breakfast | Wednesdays at 7am, Pop's Restaurant (134 Old Gate Ln.). A space for community, important questions, and understanding. Feel free to invite friends, coworkers and neighbors.

Thursday Night Prayer Meeting | 7-7:50pm. Please join us as we follow a short prayer and scripture liturgy and pray for each other. [Zoom link](#) | Meeting ID: 899 5618 6470 | Passcode: 355978

Sunday Worship | We'll meet at the Milford Arts Council (40 Railroad Ave) at 10:30am through the month of March.

Men's & Women's Bible Studies | Men meet next on Saturday 4/2, women on 4/23, from 9-10:30am. Email questions for either study to info@cpcmilford.org.

Men's & Women's Monthly Fellowship | Generally 3rd Fridays, rotating months: the women will meet April 8th. Additional details TBD. RSVP to info@cpcmilford.org.

Contact us

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