

## **Morning Worship Online – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

*Words of Welcome – Adam*

### *I. The Introduction*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

This is the day that the Lord has made:

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

We have come together as the family of God in our Father's presence, to offer him praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive his word, to bring before him the needs of the world and to seek his grace, that, through his Son, Jesus Christ, we may give ourselves to his service.

Lord, like a shepherd,  
You never stop searching for Your people,  
Your care for us anticipates our need.  
Before we recognized we needed Your grace,  
in love, Jesus gave His life for our forgiveness.

We confess that we need Your forgiveness,  
we confess our sins:  
You are the shepherd and we are Your flock,  
but we admit the times we have tried to take Your place  
and take control ourselves.  
We admit that we have not always trusted  
Your good news to be good for us.  
At times we have pleaded with You to care for us,  
but we have held back from caring for others  
and ignored the needs of others.

*Silence*

Let us confess our sins to the Father and seek his pardon and peace.

**Almighty and merciful God,  
we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with all our heart;  
and we have not loved others as Christ loves us.**

**We are truly sorry.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Help us to amend our lives;  
that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy on you and set you free from sin,  
strengthen you in goodness and keep you in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Opening responses...*

Children of God  
**This is what we are**

People of God  
**This is who we are**

Give thanks to God, for God is good  
**The love of God is now and forever**

*From **Fire and Bread** by Ruth Burgess © 2006 Wild Goose Publications*

## 2. *The Ministry of the Word*

*Hymn – The Lord’s My Shepherd – Stuart Townend (BandLab)*

*Reading – John 10:11-18 (NIV)*

<sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. <sup>13</sup>The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

<sup>14</sup>“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the

sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Sermon – Gareth*

*A Baptismal Creed*

**I believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist.**

**I believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again.**

**I believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world.**

**This is the faith of the Church.**

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### 3. Prayers – Adam

*We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.*

*The response is Jesus Lord of life: **In your mercy, hear us.***

Jesus, light of the world,  
bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations ...  
Jesus, Lord of life: **In your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, bread of life,  
give food to the hungry ...  
and nourish us all with your word.  
Jesus, Lord of life: **In your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,  
be with us and all who follow you in the way ...  
Deepen our appreciation of your truth  
and fill us with your life.  
Jesus, Lord of life: **In your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,  
recover the straggler, bind up the injured,  
strengthen the sick, and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.  
Jesus, Lord of life: **In your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,  
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you ...  
Raise us with them to eternal life.  
Jesus, Lord of life: **In your mercy, hear us.**

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us...

**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.**

*Collect for Fourth Sunday of Easter*

Risen Christ, faithful Shepherd of your Father's sheep:  
teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command,  
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

#### 4. *Conclusion*

Holy and just: **Make us like Jesus**  
Ready to take risks: **Make us like Jesus**  
Willing to weep: **Make us like Jesus**  
Aware that we're loved: **Make us like Jesus**  
When people meet us: **May they meet God in us**  
So be it, Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Farewell Words – Adam*

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

*Final Hymn – Be thou, my vision*