



**First  
Presbyterian  
Church**  
Henderson, Texas

# SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

— *Gathering* —

WELCOME

Rev. Michele R. Goff

OPENING SENTENCES

The Shepherd calls us by name and leads us to abundant life.

*We hear your voice and hasten to follow.*

The Shepherd prepares a table and lavishly pours out grace.

*We hear your invitation and take our place at the feast.*

The Shepherd gathers us in and welcomes us to the house of the Lord.

*We hear your call and give you praise.*

HYMN #722 (426)

**"Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak"**

Havergal, 1872

*(Alternate hymn numbers are for the old blue hymnals.)*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CONFESSION

Beginning with honest confession, let us respond to our Shepherd's call.

*We have gone astray, O Shepherd. You call us to follow, and we hear your voice.*

*Yet, we choose to heed other voices—voices that promise status and comfort and a carefree life.*

*But such promises are empty, and that life does not satisfy. Call to us again, O Shepherd.*

*Summon us onto right paths to pursue justice in your name, to seek after the well-being of all.*

*Lead us to the table you prepare for us—where rivals share both bread and blessings and discover there is enough for all.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

With grace overflowing, Jesus frees us from sins that burden and shame that binds and liberates us to walk in righteousness. For Christ came that we might have life, and have it abundantly.

*In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Alleluia!*

— *Word* —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Our scripture this morning is from the gospel according to John chapter 10, verses 1 through 10. O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved.

*Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

**"Climbing Fences"**

Rev. Michele R. Goff

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

— Response —

HYMN #802 (171)

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Baker, 1868

(Alternate hymn numbers are for the old blue hymnals.)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.22*

*New life in Christ takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

LORD'S PRAYER—UNISON

*Our Father who art in heaven,....*

— Eucharist —

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Even though we are connecting differently, we are still doing the work of the church. We are thankful that you continue to support the church and our ministries. Thank you!

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

While we tune in from many places, we are united at the Lord's Supper. We are bound together by love across time and distance, for this table is not my table or your table...

GREAT THANKSGIVING

BREAKING THE BREAD

We give you thanks that on the night of his arrest Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.*

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN #523 (521)

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

Westendorf, 1976

(Alternate hymn numbers are for the old blue hymnals.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Thank you, O God, for giving us communion with our risen and glorious Lord. Now send us out to be a sign of the new life that has come into the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

— Sending —

BLESSING AND CHARGE

May the love of the holy triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—abide with you forever.

Alleluia!

Now go forth in Jesus' name, remembering his new commandment to love one another, just as he has loved us. Amen.

HYMN #187 (387)

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Thrupp, 1836

(Alternate hymn numbers are for the old blue hymnals.)

*"Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences"*

