

4th Sunday in Easter
May 3, 2020
Shawnee Presbyterian Church
Led by Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim

Call to Worship

L: Jesus the Good Shepherd calls our names to come and follow him.

P: His voice, speaking our names, draws us to him.

L: We follow without fear, for the shepherd cares for us.

P: Our hearts rejoice and we can place our trust in the Good Shepherd.

L: Come, let us enter the gate with thanksgiving!

P: Let us go forth confidently with songs of praise! AMEN.

Prayer of Confession:

O Holy One, we call to you and name you as eternal, ever-present, and boundless in love. Yet there are times, O God, when we fail to recognize you in the dailiness of our lives. Sometimes shame clenches tightly around our hearts, and we hide our true feelings. Sometimes fear makes us small, and we miss the chance to speak from our strength. Sometimes doubt invades our hopefulness, and we degrade our own wisdom.

Holy God, in the daily round from sunrise to sunset, remind us again of your holy presence hovering near us and in us. Free us from shame and self-doubt. Help us to see you in the moment-by-moment possibilities to live honestly, to act courageously, and to speak from our wisdom. Amen

Assurance of Pardon:

Romans 5:1. “Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Scripture Reading:

Acts 2:42-47

2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

2:43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

2:44 All who believed were together and had all things in common;

2:45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

2:46 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,

2:47 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.

Sermon: How to Be Church!

How can we be the church today?

Acts tells us a few things about Church:

1. apostles' teaching and fellowship
2. sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all
3. spent much time together in the temple
4. praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

Church is there where the *kerygma* is preached, *koinonia* exists and *diakonia* is practiced. Devote yourselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Be in awe at the greatness and goodness of God. Share with those in need. Meet together to worship in God's temple. Then watch as God's glory shines through you! We live this out today even with the obstacles that are before us. Let us rejoice as God continues to love God's church and pours out God's blessing to Shawnee Presbyterian Church.

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

Leader: Friends: This is the joyful feast of the people of God!

People: **People will come from East and West, and from North and South, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God.**

Leader: This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust in Him to share the feast which He has prepared. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at the table with His disciples, He took the bread, and blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized Him.

Distribution of Elements

Prayer

Blessings:

May the Lord bless you.

And keep you.

May the Lord smile upon you.

And be gracious unto you.

May the Lord show His favor to you.

And give you peace. Amen