St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church
In the City of Charleston, South Carolina

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

We welcome you to St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, a house of prayer for all people.

The Reverend Dr. Adam J. Shoemaker, Rector
The Reverend Courtney Davis-Shoemaker, Assistant Priest
The Reverend Greg Smith, Deacon
Wayne Helmly, Organist & Choirmaster
Laura Ball, soprano
Anne Morrison, soprano
Damian Kremer, cello
PRELUDE: on “St. James’ Air” (The Lord’s My Shepherd)  
arr. Evelyn R. Larter  
Damian Kremer, cello

OPENING HYMN 646

The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his,  
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow,  
my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow,  
with food celestial feedeth.

Thou spread’st a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and oh, what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days  
thy goodness faileth never:  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house for ever.

A LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Officiant says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People  
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Officiant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.
The following is sung

1. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. 2. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. 3. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; 5. you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. 6. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, 7. you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 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, 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

Plain Chant

1 The Lord is my shepherd;*
   I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures*
   and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul*
   and guides me along right pathways for his Name’s sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;*
   for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;*
   you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,*
   and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.
SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

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

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said,] 1 “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. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. 7 So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Dr. Adam J. Shoemaker

THE NICENE CREED

The Reverend Dr. Adam J. Shoemaker

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.
EASTER PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In this Easter season, we pray for the church, the earth, the world, those in need, and all the members of God’s family, responding to each petition with the words Hear our prayer.

A brief silence.

We pray, O God, for all the churches around the globe: for their bishops and clergy; for the newly baptized; for the believers who cannot assemble for worship; for faithful endurance during this time of sorrow and distress; and for a deepening sense of your presence among us.

A brief silence.

O God, you are our Temple: in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for the well-being of creation: for the health of seas and rivers and lakes; for the Ashley and the Cooper; and for the will to care for your earth.

A brief silence.

O God, you are our Rainbow of promise: in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for peace and justice in the world: for an end to war and international turmoil; for concord in our troubled society; for the heads of state, legislators, and local civic leaders, that they enact wise procedures to deal with the coronavirus.

A brief silence.

O God, you are our Mighty Fortress: in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray, O God for all who are facing the coronavirus: for all who mourn their dead; all who have contracted the virus; those who are quarantined or stranded away from home; those who have lost their employment; those who fear the present and the future. We pray for physicians, nurses, and home health aides; medical researchers; and the World Health Organization. Fill the aching in our hearts with your merciful power.

A brief silence.

O God, you are our Everlasting Arms: in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for all in need: for those suffering for the faith; for those who are poor, hungry, and homeless; for those who are sick and those awaiting death; and for those we name before you here.

A longer period of silence.

O God, you are the Healer of our every ill: in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for the desires of our hearts.

A longer period of silence.

O God, you are our Heart’s Desire: in your mercy, Hear our prayer.
Receive our thanks for all who died in the faith, and bring us at the final resurrection into your everlasting life, where sorrows will be no more.

A brief silence.

O God, our Beginning and our End, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Into your gracious and mighty hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**“THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD”**

David G. Allen

Anne Morrison, soprano

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me rest in green pastures.
He has anointed my head, my cup is running over.
His goodness and mercy are mine.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He leads me beside still water;
He makes me lie down.
He revives my soul;
I will dwell in his house for ever.

May the peace of the Lord, which passeth all understanding, surround you as you journey through this life.
Do not be afraid, is the promise that he made, if you believe in him.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He walks through the valley beside me.
His rod and his staff, they bring me comfort.
I will love him the rest of my days.

Do not be afraid, is the promise that he made, if you believe in him.
And I believe in him.

**THE SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

The Officiant leads the People in reciting Psalm 63.

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water. Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory. For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise. So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your Name. My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips, When I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches. For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.
People and Officiant, led by St. Stephen’s Children and Youth

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Officiant says

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

In union, O Lord, with faithful eucharistic people throughout the world, we offer you our thanks and praise. We present to you our souls and bodies, earnestly desiring that we may always be united with you. You promise, O Christ, to be present with us in the sacrament of your body and blood, so with confidence we claim your presence among us during this eucharistic fast. Come into our hearts and unite us with you and one another. May your healing grace abound. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you and you live in us, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

The Officiant concludes with the Easter Blessing

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. Amen.

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. Amen.

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.
When Stephen, full of power and grace, 
went forth throughout the land, 
he bore no shield before his face, 
no weapon in his hand; 
but only in his heart a flame 
and on his lips a sword 
wherewith he smote and overcame 
the foemen of the Lord.

When Stephen preached against the laws 
and by those laws was tried, 
he had no friend to plead his cause, 
no spokesman at his side; 
but only in his heart a flame 
and on his eyes a light 
wherewith God’s daybreak to proclaim 
and rend the veils of night.

When Stephen, young and doomed to die, 
fell crushed beneath the stones, 
he had no curse nor vengeful cry 
for those who broke his bones; 
but only in his heart a flame 
and on his lips a prayer 
that God, in sweet forgiveness’ name, 
should understand and spare.

Let me, O Lord, thy cause defend, 
a knight without a sword; 
no shield I ask, no faithful friend, 
no vengeance, no reward; 
but only in my heart a flame 
and in my soul a dream, 
so that the stones of earthly shame 
a jeweled crown may seem.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of the Risen Christ.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

POSTLUDE: “Arioso”

J.S. Bach
Damian Kremer, cello

Adapted from the Rite for Spiritual Communion by the Order of Julian of Norwich.

The worship is over. Now the service begins.