

East Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church
Reedsville, Pennsylvania



April 21, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Congregation reads text in BOLD

*If you are comfortable doing so, please stand.

GATHERING

WELCOME

ACTS of CONTEMPORARY APOSTLES

CENTERING THOUGHT:

Is gathering as a beloved community an adequate basis for belonging? Why? What else is required? Does what happens in your community and the environment matter to you? How do you resist the individualism that settles for your happiness regardless of what's happening around you?

SILENT PRAYER:

Good shepherd, help us to be leaders, shepherds and followers who help to create beloved community within and beyond the church. Amen.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

(based on Psalm 23)

Our Good Shepherd has led us to this place.

He leads us beside still waters; he restores our soul.

Even though we walk through dark valleys, even though we are fearful and in need of comfort,

Our cup overflows with God's goodness and mercy; we shall dwell in the house of the Lord our whole lives long.

*HYMN: PH #263 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

*CALL TO CONFESSION:

The joy of this Easter season continues as we are called to Word and worship. Let us pause to confess our sins to our Good Shepherd.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Savior God, you guide us, but we are slow to follow and stubborn. You welcome us to your fold, but we make others feel as if they don't belong. Forgive our life-alienating ways, our exclusion and judgment; the way we evaluate and compare, demean and degrade. Redeem us. Restore us. Help us be faithful as your flock. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

A time for silent reflection and self-examination

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

Christ forgives. Christ transforms. Christ renews. Christ leads us down the path of new beginnings. We are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

***PEACE OF CHRIST:**

Let us extend the Peace of Christ to those here and beyond the walls of our Sanctuary. The Peace of Christ be with You!!

And, also with You.

***GLORIA PATRI:**

***Glory to be the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.***

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

MESSAGE: *Longing for Belonging*

Rev. Ela J. Robertson

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*HYMN: PH #175 *The Lord's My Shepherd, All My Need*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (from a *Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Holy God, Good Shepherd, we turn to you in prayer because we need a leader, someone we can trust, someone who can show us the way in complicated and confusing times. Guide us, Good Shepherd.

The world's problems overwhelm. The burden of suffering is great. We bear witness to tragedy after tragedy on the evening news as wolves circle your innocent sheep, threatening our hope for a just world, a path to peace and a beloved kin-dom. What can we do, God? How can we be of help? What power do we have to transform evil to good? Guide us, Good Shepherd.

When we doubt our worth and our belovedness, remind us that we are yours, that we belong, that we have place within your flock. Remind us and comfort us with the knowledge that in body and in soul, in life and in death we belong to you, our Savior and Shepherd. Unite your flock with your love and help us be as welcoming of others as you are to us.

Guide us, Good Shepherd. Just as the shepherd knows each of his sheep, help us to know and care for the individuals that are in particular need of your merciful grace. Hear our prayers for: The innocent caught in the cross hairs of war • Soldiers suffering from moral injury and PTSD • The sick and those who care for them • The grieving, the exhausted, the depressed • Those in need of resurrection hope...

LORD'S PRAYER:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

MEDITATIVE MUSIC

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY:

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

*HYMN: PH #268 *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*AMEN

*POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING:

April 23	Reservations Deadline: Mother/Daughter Dinner at Milroy Church
May 1	Session Meeting , in manse, at 6:30 pm
May 2	Tea Party , Valley View, 1:30 pm
May 5	Communion
May 17	Third-Friday Event , Reedsville Square
June 8	East-Kish Open House , Reedsville Community Days

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:


Mother/Daughter Dinner, May 4th, 6:00 pm at Milroy Presbyterian Church (Adults - \$15.00, 5-12 - \$7.00, 4 & under - free) **Reservations Due by April 23rd**. Call 717-437-5818 to make reservations. Menu: Garden Tossed Salad w/dressing, Marinated Beef – Red Parsley Potatoes, Macaroni & Cheese - Green Beans Almondine, and Desserts.

Program to Follow Meal

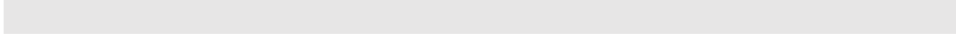
On Thursday, May 2, at 1:30, there will be a Valley View Tea Party for Terrace, Haven and Village residents connected to Milroy, Reedsville, Belleville, Lewistown and other local Presbyterian churches. Members of the congregation who would like to attend to provide fellowship are welcome. Please let Pastor Ela know if you can be there.

Kenneth McNitt has kindly volunteered to set up a stand at the May 17 Third-Friday event in Reedsville. He will be our liaison with the Reedsville Community Association. This is a great opportunity to increase our visibility in the community. At the May 17 Third-Friday event, we plan to promote the summer day camps and have a fishing game for children. Please volunteer to help.

Session has decided that the church will be hosting some sort of open house during the Saturday morning of Reedsville Days. Laura will head this committee and effort. Please volunteer to plan and to help.



Questions for reflection

1. What thoughts, ideas, feelings or images come to your mind when you consider Jesus as our “Good Shepherd”?
 2. Where do you feel like you belong? What or who makes you feel this way?
 3. What might need to change about your church or your community to make others feel like they belong?
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East Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church

Reedsville, Pennsylvania

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Worship Leader: Rev. Ela J. Robertson

Musician: Bill Peightel

Lector: Paul Raber

Ushers: Tina Harpster and Vicki Bigelow