

Covenant Community Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024



We Gather

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Leader: Beloved, I AM the good shepherd (the one who tends us guides us into pastures, who recognizes the sounds of our names).

People: I AM the good shepherd (the one who bends to heal us, travels through the deepest valleys with us who gives up everything for us all).

Leader: I AM the good shepherd (the one whose rod and staff comfort us whose strength and love holds us whose cup of love runneth over).

People: I AM the good shepherd and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

ALL: Let us gather here. God's people in God's love for God's world.

*Opening #407

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

*Opening Prayer and 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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

We Hear the Word

First Epistle Lesson

Acts 3:1-11

Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money.

Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!"

Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them.

All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John.

Second Epistle Lesson

Acts 4:5-12

The next day the council of all the rulers and elders and teachers of religious law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and other relatives of the high priest. They brought in the two disciples and demanded, "By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?"

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of our people, are we being questioned today because we've done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed? Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says,

'The stone that you builders rejected
has now become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."

Song

Jesus the Shepherd of My Soul

First Gospel Lesson

John 10:11-16

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep.

“I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.

Second Gospel Lesson

Matthew 18:12-14

“If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he will rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine that didn’t wander away! In the same way, it is not my heavenly Father’s will that even one of these little ones should perish.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

“Lost Sheep”

Paper Stop Motion Short Film by Lukas Rooney

We Respond

Prayers of the People (Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**)

Morning Prayer

*Closing Hymn #672

Let the Words of the Lord

We Are Sent

*Benediction (Psalm 23 KJV)

ALL: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

*Benediction Response (please stand & turn to face each other as we sing)

*The LORD bless you and keep you,
the LORD make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious, gracious, gracious to you,
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you, give you, give you peace.*

Leader: Go in Peace, to Love and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

*Denotes all who are able, please stand

Announcements

Save the Date: Sunday, May 5, Work and Worship Service 10 AM: Howard Burgoyne, East Coast Conference Superintendent, will be joining us along with his wife. Howard will lead us in communion during the Worship part of the service. The Leadership Team invites the congregation to attend in-person or on-line for the Worship Service followed by a conversation together. Bring any and all questions you have for Howard regarding next steps for our church. If you have a chance, please review the document "Ending with Dignity and Grace" sent via an email to all last week. Please let Diane know if you did not receive it and need a copy.

Will you be here? Signup sheets for church attendance for Sundays are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex outside the kitchen. We realize plans can change but it will be helpful in planning worship services to know who will be attending every Sunday.

Essex Jericho Underhill Ecumenical Food Shelf Needs: Our church is "mac and cheese and canned veggies". Any non-perishable food or cash donations are graciously accepted! Food or cash donations can be dropped off at church on the shelf next to the doors in the Narthex or at the food donation boxes at Hannafords, Price Chopper in Essex, or the Jericho Market. If you have any questions, talk with Susan T.

Helping Us Worship

Greeter:

Worship Leaders:

Scripture Readers:

Tech Team:

Billie Hall

Gary Coryer & Josy Moore

Susan Turner & Cindy Lindquist

Doug Morrell, Don Turner, & Wayne Border



One Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex, VT 05452

802-879-4313 Office

admin@jerihocovenantchurch.org Office