

Prayer for the Day

God be the light in my eyes. God be the love in my voice. God be the gentleness in my steps. God be the compassion in my touch. God be the word on my lips. God be the strength for my spirit. God be the ground under my feet.

Parts of the service in **bold** are for everyone to speak in unison.

Gathering Music

Dr. Jonathan Morris

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sheri Fry

Call to Worship

Liturgist Paul Steward

One: Before we were born,
All: Before we took our first breath,
 One: Before the week started,
All: Before the year started,
 One: Before we said, "I love you,"
All: Before we said, "I'm sorry,"
 One: Before we figured out who we really are,
All: Before we figured out who we want to be,
 One: Before it all—
All: God loved us.
 One: Unconditionally and freely,
All: Fully and honestly—
 One: God loved us.
All: Again and again, this is where our story begins.
 One: Let us worship God!



The Mother of Us All - Lent 4 is Laetare Sunday (rejoice)

Lighting of the Christ Candle (unison)

In this place of friendship there is freedom. Let the light we kindle go before us, strong in hope, wide in good will, inviting the day to come. Amen

Hymn 749

Come, Live in the Light

(next page)

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Rev. Sheri Fry

God, I turn into ashes all my preconceptions about this scripture, all my safe, familiar interpretations. Burn me with its newness. Let it rise like the phoenix with bright wide-winged words. Amen

(continued)

749 Come! Live in the Light!

We Are Called



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your —
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that



joy and the love of the Lord! We are called
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,



to be light for the king - dom, to live in the
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and



free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 vio - lence will be no more.
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain



We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

The thematic and musical center of this hymn on the vocation of all believers is found in the refrain, which is based on the well-known challenge of Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

First Lesson

Luke 13:31-33

A Reading from Herod Antipas

Paul Steward

Second Lesson

Luke 8:1-3

A Reading from Mary Magdalene

Sara Tyburczy

Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

We believe in a God who knows holy rage— A God who stands with the underdog, who passionately protects the suffering, and who overturns systems of corruption. We believe in a God who leads by example— feeding the hungry, welcoming the children, offering water to the Samaritan, eating with the tax collector, healing the sick, preaching from the mountaintop, and offering second chances. We believe in a God who knew that we would lose our way, and still said, “This is my body broken for you.” We believe in a God who knew our capacity for mistakes, and still said, “I’m going to prepare a place for you.” And because of this love, we believe that God shows us the way, again and again and again. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Anthem

Were You There?
African-American Spiritual

Barbara Myers

Prayer and The 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.

Offering Ourselves and our Gifts

Hymn 700

I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

(next page)

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Dr. Jonathan Morris

Good Shepherd Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Sheri Fry
Choir Director: Sara Tyburczy

Office Admin: Teddie McConnell
Accompanist: Dr. Jonathan Morris

700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so)
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y -

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (an - y - time!)
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na

live so (live so)
 work so (work so)
 pray so (pray so)
 sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y -

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (an - y - time!)
 (an - y - time!)

This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.



GoodStuff@GoodShepherd



Sermon Musings

From me & Diana Butler Bass, historian of Christianity

March 10, 2021

Nearly all of my Christian friends remember a lecture, book, or conversation that made them reexamine what they thought about the Bible, doctrine, the church, or even God. For me, it was Marcus Borg, Father Richard Rohr, Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor, Rev. John Phillip Newell, Rev. Nadia Bolles-Weber, Ibram X. Kendi to name just a few.

It was not really the topic — the creeds and orthodoxy — that was revelatory; it could have been about evolution, white supremacy, the authorship of Paul's letters, or any other topic in church history. The point was that they complicated my view of faith and history.

Complications challenge certainty. You do not have to go to graduate school to know that. We live in a complex world, one where, at any given moment, a sound bite or tweet from the other side of the planet can make you stop in your tracks and reconsider what you believe. An unexpected question or upsetting event can throw a life into turmoil in a flash. If you are alive and paying any attention at all in the early twenty-first century, your world is thousands of times more complex than that of your grandparents.

This is why people associate with only those who think as they do, block critics on Twitter, believe in conspiracy theories, and find safety in watching certain types of news.

Huddling in our own corner is a respite from complexity, where we might hold on to at least a shred of our certainty. "Sometimes the biggest challenge to our sense of certainty about God," writes Peter Enns, "is just getting out of the house once in a while and seeing that we are just people like everyone else with a limited perspective and not the center of the universe."

Faith often needs to become more complex before it can become clear again. That sounds paradoxical, perhaps, since we typically define faith as surety. Although it took a couple of years and much wrestling, I came to admit that Christianity itself, as a human story, is profoundly flawed, shot through with all the sins Jesus condemned; much of its tradition is an exercise of power, and its institutions are far from perfect.

Knowing this, I learned that faith must be cloaked in humility and open to honest criticism about where the church had gone wrong. My guess is that, in a century or two, we too will probably be shown to have contributed to some great injustice or dumb idea that is invisible to us now. I need to let go of the need to be so sure about everything.

Faith, after all, is a sister of hope and love, an aspect of trust, and a way of life. Certainty is a poor imitation of that. Alan Jones, former dean of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, would often say, "The opposite of faith isn't doubt. It is certainty." An unpretentious faith — paradoxical, really.

In Faith & Uncertainty,
Sheri

Rev. Sheri Fry
Interim Pastor

InstaLent Photo Invitation

It's not too late to join the Good Shepherd photo challenge throughout the Lenten season. Take a picture on your phone and email the church office with a photo that matches the theme of the day. Post a photo each day or when it works for you and encounter the themes of Lent on a visual, personal level.

3/10 Water 3/11 Path 3/12 Act of Kindness 3/13 What I'm Reading 3/14 Discipleship 3/15 Waiting 3/16 Bread

Wednesday Worship in Lent

If you need some mid-week spiritual encouragement, I hope you'll consider accessing our on-line Taize style worship service on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm. You will enjoy beautiful music, prayer, and some thoughts to ponder. Hope to see your virtual presence!

Peace, Sheri



Jan Myers, long-time member of Good Shepherd, passed away on February 4th. Jan was also a Ghost Ranch friend and instructor and an accomplished pastel artist. Her landscapes captured the vibrant colors and the endless space of the Southwest. Jan was truly one of the sweetest, kindest people we have known. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Ghost Ranch Education & Retreat Center, Abiquiu, NM.

Jan was an accomplished pastel artist. Her landscapes captured the vibrant colors and the endless space of the Southwest. Her passion for art and travel provided an unlimited opportunity for inspiration. Jan will continue to delight people in the community with her artwork in both public and private collections.

A memorial service will be held at a date yet to be determined.

ZIMBABWE MISSION PARTNERSHIP

March is traditionally the time when we receive donations to pay school fees for children at the HEATHER CHIMHOGA CARE CENTER in Zimbabwe. This year, since schools are closed, again, due to the increased cases of COVID 19, the Mission Committee has decided to take a year off from that specific offering. Instead, we will focus on the In-Person, Elephant Rock Ride, scheduled to take place on Sunday, June

6 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. Good Shepherd already has 3 excited bike riders ready to ride for Team GSPC, which will be a part of the larger Team Zimbabwe. As always, donations may be made on-line by going to the Zimbabwe Mission Partnership website and following their directions OR by making your check out to GSPC, noting Team GSPC and the rider's name in the memo space and mailing or delivering to the church (hopefully into the offering plate in the near future!!) Please watch for more information, including names of our riders. If you, or a friend or family member would like to join the Team please contact Mary McCarron or Pastor Sheri.



Lenten Book Study – Adult Education Opportunity

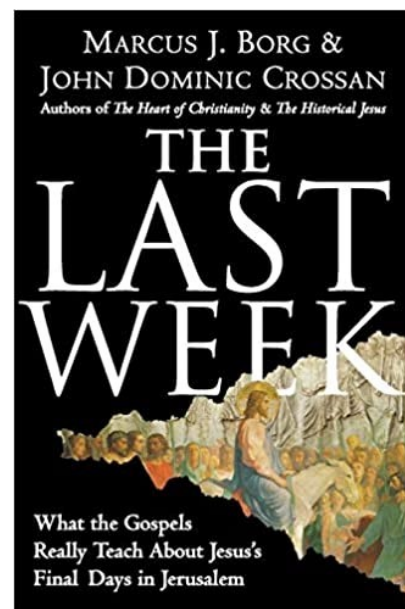
WEDNESDAYS @ 12:15 pm in Fellowship Hall – March 10-24

Bring your lunch & I will provide beverages!

The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem

Using the gospel of Mark as their guide authors Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan join together to reveal a radical and little-known Jesus and they present a day-by-day account of Jesus's final week of life.

This book is easily ordered on Amazon for \$10.99 in paperback. I have a few copies of the book in the church office if you would like to purchase the book from Good Shepherd.



Please read the next TWO (2) chapters of this book and come prepared to share your thoughts.



Highlands Camp and Retreat Center is looking for volunteers to help plan and construct a Mountain Bike Park in the old horse corral. We have new bikes and helmets, and now need some ideas and expertise for the bike park. If you are willing to help plan and/or build, contact Maria Schupe at Highlands or Mary Kennedy at Good Shepherd.

Daylight Savings Time begins Saturday night! Please remember to set your clocks forward one hour so that you won't miss the premiere of the church service..



The Food Bank needs donations of pet food and toilet paper the most, then hand soap and other toiletry items, laundry detergent, and large-size diapers. In February the food bank served 80 households totaling 260 Individuals. Of those, 81 were children.

Joys and Concerns

Please pray for Art and his family, grieving the loss of Jan; for the Bennett family who are grieving the loss of Diana's parents; for Wava V. is home now and on hospice care; the family of Barb W., who is now living with her daughter due to severe Alzheimer's disease; for the family of Burton K., who is in memory care and hospice care; Pee Wee and the family of Sue H.; Norm R.'s family, for Bill and Gayle, H.; for Michelle W; for communities affected by COVID-19 or by human rights violations here in the United States and throughout the world; for our church, that it may thrive as it brings the good news to our area..