

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020 (Bulletin on 3rd page)

Intro / Children's Message (Pr. Paul)

Greeting and Prayer of the Day (Pr. Art)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all!

C: And also with you!



P: Let Us pray together... **O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

C: Amen.

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

Verse 1

Savior like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care. In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.

Verse 2

We are yours; in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way; keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.

Verse 3

You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be; you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

Verse 4

Early let us seek your favor, early let us do your will; blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.

First Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If 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. ²¹For 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." ²³When 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. ²⁴He 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. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel: John 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

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

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Pastor Art Newhouse

Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace / Nicene Creed video (D. Hendershot; words on screen)

Benediction / Lord’s Prayer / Dismissal

P: ... May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

(Lord’s Prayer)

A: Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

You Never Let Go

Verse 1:

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
Your perfect love is casting out fear,
and even when I’m caught in the middle of the storms of this life,
I won’t turn back I know You are near.

Pre-Chorus:

And I will fear no evil, for my God is with me,
and if my God is with me, whom then shall I fear?
Whom then shall I fear?

Chorus:

Oh no, You never let go, through the calm and through the storm.
Oh no You never let go, in ev’ry high and ev’ry low.
Oh no You never let go, Lord, You never let go of me.

Verse 2:

And I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on,
a glorious light beyond all compare,
and there will be an end to these troubles,
but until that day comes, we’ll live to know You here on the earth.

(Pre-Chorus, next page)

Pre-Chorus:

And I will fear no evil, for my God is with me, and if my God is with me, whom then shall I fear? Whom then shall I fear?

Chorus:

Oh no, You never let go, through the calm and through the storm.
Oh no You never let go, in ev'ry high and ev'ry low.
Oh no You never let go, Lord, You never let go of me.

Bridge:

Yes I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on, and there will be an end to these troubles, but until that day comes, still I will praise You, still I will praise You.

Chorus:

Oh no, You never let go, through the calm and through the storm.
Oh no You never let go, in ev'ry high and ev'ry low.
Oh no You never let go, Lord, You never let go of me.

(see below for our new "Virtual Bulletin")



Bethlehem
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May, 2020

The May issue of the STAR is ready. Copies are available in the Shooting Star box outside the church entry. Also check online at www.bethlehemtc.org < About Us > "The Online Bethlehem Star" or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>

With **Gov. Whitmer's stay-at-home order** extended through May 15th and **Bishop Satterlee's strong advice** that congregations do not return to in-person worship through May 17th, Bethlehem is working on plans to start services as early as the last weekend in May or the first weekend in June, but those are subject to change. Details will be sent out as we get closer to that time.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) Dive in with us!!! Make plans to join us at "Great Bible Reef" July 20th to July 24th this summer! We need MANY volunteers in MANY areas 😊 If you would like to volunteer, please contact Annie Slaubaugh at annie.slaubaugh@bethlehemtc.org

Pr Paul and the staff (Sharon, Phil, Annie and Barbara) pray that you are staying safe and healthy. We miss seeing you in person and look forward to being able to worship and have fellowship together.



Our next Jubilee service is scheduled for Sunday, May 31st 10am (if in-person worship starts by then.)

The Annual Chili Cook Off has been postponed to a later date. There will be no meal served after the Jubilee on May 31st.

BLC has successfully conducted several important staff and committee gatherings and meetings on a web application called ZOOM (usable on almost ANY device), so we are trying it out with 2 new venues: brief Fellowship time after worship, and a mid-week Bible Study!

Fellowship Time will start as soon as worship is over, or approximately 10:40am, on Sundays. We will **not** be sharing the Zoom information publicly on Facebook or our website, so we can avoid hacking. An email will be sent out the day before either the Fellowship or the Bible Study. If someone you trust wants to join our Zoom Fellowship time or the Wednesday Bible Study, feel free to share this information with them privately.



To login to our Zoom ministry sessions, you will need to type into your web browser (or click on) the weblinks provided AND **you may need to have the ZOOM app installed on your smartphone, tablet, PC or Mac.** You can also “join the meeting” on the website www.zoom.com

On Wednesday, April 22nd, we launched our first attempt at "Zoom Bible Study." We hope you were able to join us for this first session which lasted approximately 40 minutes. Starting Wednesday, April 29th, beginning at Noon, we extended that bible study duration to about an hour and 15 minutes, using 2 back-to-back Zoom sessions. Pr. Paul will be joined by staff member Annie Slabaugh who will co-lead this study. Our subject matter will be "Luke and Acts," but **please note that you don't need to be a biblical scholar to join us.** In fact, much of our time might be just as social as it is theological. Just remember to install the Zoom software on your PC, Mac, table or smart phone before you visit the links with ID and Password provided. Like the Sunday Fellowship, the meeting ID and password will be emailed out by the day before the Bible Study.