

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

4th Sunday of Easter, May 3, 2020



Preparation

I was a lost and wandering sheep. I lived among people who were scattered and dispersed. Lo, my Shepherd went out in search of me and found me, He carried me upon his shoulder, and brought me into the fold of life; he set before me the table of life, so that my children and I might always be sustained.

-Syrian prayer, 8th century

Prelude

Variations on *The Gift of Love* [O Waly Waly]

Janet Linker

Greeting

Prayer of Adoration Lord, a shepherd seeks a lost sheep, we know You as a who God seeks and saves the lost. Like a woman who searches for a lost coin until it is found, our God rejoices over one soul restored to wholeness. As a father receives a returning wayward child, our God welcomes us and lets the past be the past. So we lift up our praise to You, O God, giving thanks that we are received. Therefore, let us receive and welcome and rejoice over one another in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer of Confession [a prayer of St. Augustine]

God of our life, there are days when the burdens we carry chafe our shoulders and weigh us down; when the road seems dreary and endless, the skies grey and threatening; days when our lives have no music in them, and our hearts are lonely, and our souls have lost their courage. Have mercy on us, Lord, when we left undone those things which we ought to have done; and when we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

(silent prayers)

Holy God, flood our path with Your light. Turn our eyes to where the skies are full of promise; tune our hearts to brave music; fill us with a sense of companionship with heroes, saints, and friends of every age; lift our spirits so that we may be able to encourage the souls of all who journey with us on this road of life, to Your honor and glory. Amen.

The Promise of the Gospel

Children's Lesson

Hymn

803 *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

[Resignation]

My shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is his name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed, beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways,
And leads me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
When I walk through the shades of death your presence is my stay;
One word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows; your oil anoints my head.
The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;
No more a stranger, or a guest, but like a child at home.

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 23

Sermon

“Places in the Heart”

Rev. Dr. Rob Carlson

Affirmation of Faith

Christ Jesus, our Lord, was revealed in the flesh,
 Vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels,
 Proclaimed among the nations,
 Believed in throughout the world,
 Taken up in glory.
 Jesus testified before Pontius Pilate,
 Was crucified, dead, and buried.
 On the third day, he rose from the dead,
 And testified before many faithful witnesses.
 Jesus Christ will be revealed in due time by God:
 The blessed and only ruler,
 The sovereign Lord of all,
 Who alone has immortality,
 And dwells in unapproachable light,
 Whom no one has ever seen or can see:
 To whom alone be honor and might, forever and ever. Amen.
 --I Timothy

Offering Anthem¹

Be Thou My Vision
 Chancel Choir of Knox Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati

[Slane]

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer *“...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors...”*

Benediction

Postlude – Prayer for Wisdom, Musical Premiere and Dedication

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos commissioned Connor J. Koppin to compose a choral work in recognition of Rev. Dr. Robert T. Carlson’s 24 years of service. The work is based on one of his favorite scriptures, 1st Corinthians 1:18-25.

Composer’s Notes

Connor J. Koppin

Prayer for Wisdom

Connor J. Koppin

Words are included on the following page

¹This morning’s anthem is used by permission and as a love offering from the choir of Knox Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, for Rev. Carlson’s last Sunday before retirement. Rev. Carlson served Knox Presbyterian from 1992-1996.

Words for the commissioned work by Brian Newhouse

Prayer for Wisdom

Who is wise among us?

*Let them stand here in awe
as each night God
lights candles in the vault of eternity.*

Be still, be still, that your wisdom
may come from God's heavens.

Who is learned among us?

*Let them stand here in awe
as continents shake
to laws God made
and we cannot break.*

Be still, be still, that your wisdom
may come from God's earth.

Who is wise among us?

*Let their hearts beat in awe
that God sees each, sees all
as beloved, as welcome, as whole.*

Be still, be still, that your wisdom
may come from God's love.

Brian Newhouse