

Worship @ Home Guide – April 25, 2021

Woodstock Presbyterian Church, 142 E. Court St., Woodstock, VA 22664

RECONNECT

Gathering Music/Announcements

Welcome & Call to Worship

1 John 3:16-18, 23-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister^[a] in need and yet refuses help?

Siblings, **let us love**, not in word or speech, **but in truth and action**.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Siblings, **let us love**, not in word or speech, **but in truth and action**.

Hymn – The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Prayer of Confession

The resurrected Christ has come into our midst inviting us to repentance and forgiveness. Our journeys have taken us far from God, but the hospitality of Christ welcomes us home. Let us confess our sin.

Welcoming God, we confess that we have journeyed far from you. We have traveled far from your love and justice. We have neglected the stranger in our midst. And we have been doubted your presence with us. Help us to see the way you have set for us in Christ. Restore us to a life of mutuality, love and justice for all. Amen.

The welcoming grace of God is sure for each and for all. Our dwelling place in God is secure. Receive the forgiveness of God and be restored to right relation with God and one another. Thanks be to God.

READ

Moment for Children – “I Just Wanna be a Sheep”

Scripture Reading

Psalm 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;^[a]
³ he restores my soul.^[a]
He leads me in right paths^[a]
for his name's sake.
⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,^[a]
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.
⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
⁶ Surely^[a] goodness and mercy^[a] shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.^[a]

Scripture Reading

John 10:11-18

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes^[a] it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

REFLECT

Message

“Sheep of the True Shepherd”

Musical Reflection – I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

RESPOND

Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments.
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

Prayers+

God of the Easter season,
you come to us with resurrection life to liberate us from all that enslaves us
in patterns of racialized and economic violence,
and from all that keeps us from the fullness of life you desire for all of your children
and for the earth itself.

Help us to see that you are the Good Shepherd
whose goodness and mercy follow us all of our days.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your church throughout the globe amid this pandemic.

Empower us to serve you faithfully,
and be the place where wounds are touched,
attended to, released, liberated and redeemed.

And we pray for countries who have not yet received an equitable supply of the COVID-19 vaccine. Give us, your church, a spirit of justice so that we can witness to officials who are responsible for just distribution of this needed vaccine so that equitable sharing will be the norm and not an afterthought.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people in every nation throughout the earth.

May we seek your common life and work for justice and peace for all your people and not just the few. Enable us to be in solidarity with those whose rights have been abused or rejected, so that we may be a witness to justice. And we pray for those whose lives have been traumatized by gun violence — may we be agents of nonviolence in places of deep brokenness.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Empower us to live according to your Great Commandment — to love you with our whole being, and to love others as ourselves. Help us to trust that your future is struggling toward realization even now in our midst.

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying, Our Father...

RETURN

Charge & Benediction

(Colossians 3:12-14)

As God's own, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness and patience, forgiving one another as the Lord has forgiven you, and crown all these things with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Amen.

Sending Hymn – Saviour Like a Shepherd Lead Us

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Hymns from Glory to God.

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