

First Presbyterian Church

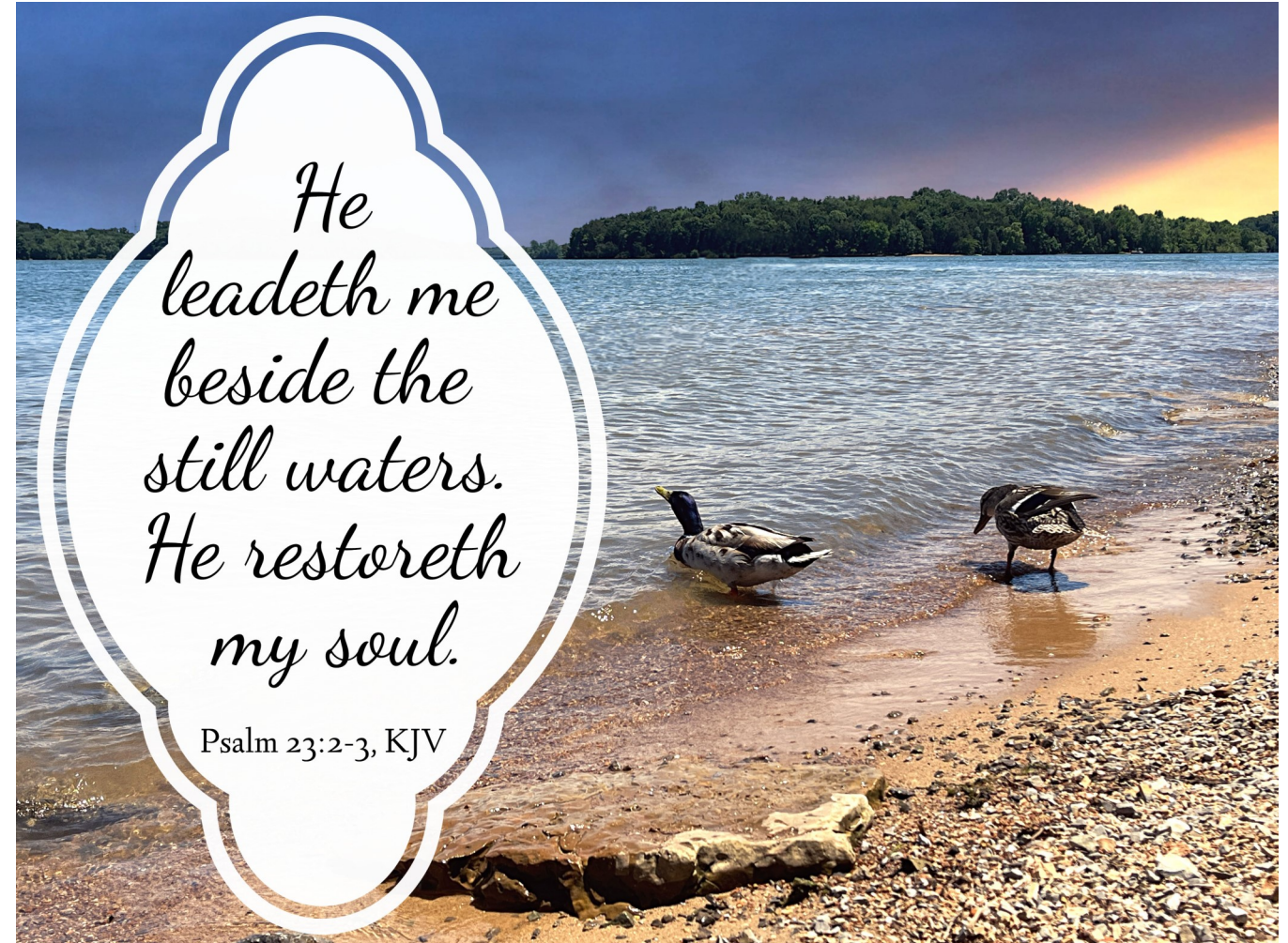
Kingsport, Tennessee

*Seeking to see the face of Christ...
Striving to be the hands of Christ*

Serving Today

LITURGISTS: Virginia Wooten - Chapel
Claudia Mihovk - Sanctuary
GREETERS & USHERS: Carol Dixon - Sanctuary
SOUND: Olin Babb
FLOWER DELIVERY: Greg Easley

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED
TO THE GLORY OF GOD
in loving memory of Ridley Ruth
by Mary Ruth.



Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 30, 2023
8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

BELLS OF GOD’S PRESENCE

WELCOME

PRELUDE (8:45) “A Flower Remembered” John Rutter

GATHERING MUSIC (11:00)

#701 Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary

#48 Rain Down

#637 O Sing to the Lord, O Sing God a New Song (*verses 1 and 5 only*)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When it seemed that Love was dying, Love showed it could rise again,

People: **Filling empty hearts with courage, hope, joy, and a glad "Amen!"**

Leader: Let us, too, be alleluias, serving you, Lord, to the end.

People: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Live in us now, Risen Friend!**

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 43 “You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord” (*Choir only on verses; All on Refrain*)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know old heartaches that still pain me. You know when I sit down and rise up. You know the worries that rob me of rest, the fears that drive me. You discern my thoughts from afar: what I attempt to conceal from others, and why I do what I do. You are acquainted with all my ways. You see the good things I do in secret, as well as the sinful things. Forgive me, God. Help me lay aside my faithless fears. Forgive my inability to trust you. Help me overcome the hurts of the past and give up using them as excuses for my present situation. I am the work of your hand; fulfill your purpose for me. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, Amen. (*silent prayer*)

KYRIE ***Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.*** D. Johnson

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Christ forgives the most impossible sins, overcomes the greatest fears, comforts the loudest cries, and breaks down the strongest barriers to his love.

Through the resurrection, God’s Spirit is at work here and now.

Friends, know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

*SUNG RESPONSE “Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks, because we’re given Jesus Christ, the Son. And now, let the weak say, “We are strong”; let the poor say, “We are rich, because of what the Lord has done for us!” Give thanks. Give thanks.

*PEACE OF CHRIST

HEARING GOD’S WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Psalm 23*

GOSPEL READING *John 14: 15-24*

SERMON “What Only the Lonely Know” Mike Shelton

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 834 “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION ~ Five Cents a Meal ~ UKirk ETSU John Golden

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

(8:45) “Great God of Every Blessing”

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care; You are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share. How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start: sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace, in death and life extending your covenant embrace. In Christ we are one body; each member has a part: sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

(11:00) “The Lord’s My Shepherd” Robert J. Greene, Jr.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The Lord is our Shepherd, we shall not want. As we live in such a faith, may we be empowered to share our resources in a most generous way. May we learn the joys of giving as well as receiving. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN OF SENDING NO. 802 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONCLUDING PRAISE

8:45 “For the Beauty of the Earth” arr. Ken Renfrow
11:00 “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” arr. Michael Cox

**Those who are able please stand*