

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

These words begin some of the most famous and most often memorized words of scripture.

Notice something profound in this beautiful psalm.

When life is going well – when the pastures are green and the rivers calm – the Lord is there, leading. Yet God is spoken of in the third person. "He maketh me...he leadeth me... he restoreth me." The Lord is present, but is more detached.

When life is not going well – when the valleys are dark and filled with evil – God is closer. God is addressed directly in the second person. "You are with me."

It is true. We are often closer to God in times of adversity rather than tranquility.

There is still more. The troubles and adversities of this life will pass. In the Lord's house – at God's own table – we will find our cups overflowing. Reconciliation with all, enemies and loved ones alike, will take place. The Lord's house will become our eternal home and from God's table we shall never have to rise.

Through green pastures, to dark valleys, through to life everlasting, the Lord is our Good Shepherd. Thanks be to God!

The Rev. Keith McKee is minister at St. George's Church
in London, Ontario.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, April 21, 2013

Fourth Easter of Sunday

Please stand at items marked * if you are able.
Passages in **Bold Print** are to be spoken in Unison
Organ Prelude – Hymn and Quiet Reflection

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Bert Vancook

Pianist - Sheila Rowan Music Director- Kendall House

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Introit

* Entry of the Bible

Call to Worship

* Hymn: *Lord, listen to your children* # 449

Opening Prayer:

Holy God, creator of all; the risen Jesus taught from scripture of his death, resurrection and of his ascension into your glorious presence. May he breathe on us his peace, that our eyes may be opened to recognize him among us and to follow wherever he leads.

O Jesus, you lived to show what life is like, you died to show that sin is death, you rose to lift us up to eternal life, help us to follow you and to love you forever. Hear our prayer.

Assurance of Pardon

Exchanging the Peace of Christ

Music

* Hymn: *From heaven you came* # 379
(Children come to the front during the last verse)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Preparation

Lead me, Lord, lead me in your righteousness; make your way plain before my face; for it is you, and you, God only, who makes me to dwell in safety

Bible Readings:

John 10: 22-30

P. 104

N.T.

Psalms 23

P. 501

O.T.

Acts 9: 36-43

P. 128

N.T.

Gloria

594

* Hymn: *The Lord's my shepherd*

11

Sermon

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Tithes and Offerings

* Offertory Response

637

Take my love; my Lord,
I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee

Prayer of Dedication

Beloved God; our hearts overflow with love and gratitude.
We give you all that we are: memory, will, intellect, body, soul,
heart, and our faculties. And we give you our willingness to see
that these offerings help others in Jesus' name.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (debtsdebtors)

* Hymn: *Be thou my vision*

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Blessing

Response: *Praise the Lord from whom all blessings flow.
He has washed and made me white as snow.
I'm redeemed from all my sin and shame.
Now and forever, praise his holy name.
Praise his holy name.
Praise his holy name.
To God be the glory now and forever.
Praise his holy name!*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission purpose is to put our faith into action through mission education, community outreach, and personal and financial support both at home and abroad.



Prayer Concerns:

Marie Huffman (Roseview)
and her granddaughter, Bronwyn

Emile Chiasson

Douglas Anderson

Vi Douglas (mother of Lesley Murray)

Thank you this week to:

Greeters: Betty Irwin and Betty Irving

Lay Reader: Sandra Allan

Fellowship Time: Isobel Telford and Val Calder

Elevator Operator: Doug Brown

Offering Counting: Lynae Grace and Myrna Grace

Offering Collection: Russ Brown, Don Munn, Joyce Nystrom, Janet Taylor

Visiting: Leslie Shaw and Betty Irving

Next week's volunteers: April 28th

Greeters: Betty Irwin and Betty Irving

Lay Reader: Lynae Grace

Fellowship Time: Betty Ann Burns and Lorraine Jarvis

Elevator Operator: Laird Morrison

Offering Counting: Alice & Laird Morrison & Linda Rydholm

Offering Collection: Russ Brown, Don Munn, Joyce Nystrom, Janet Taylor

Visiting: Leslie Shaw and Betty Irving

Upcoming Events at First

Thur., April 25th - Bible Study - 10 am
 - Choir Practice - 7 pm

Friday, April 26th - Crafts & Conversation - 1 pm

Lakehead Choral Group presents their annual spring concert, titled "The Four Elements" on Wednesday, April 24th at St. Agnes Church.

Tickets \$15 at the door

Advance tickets \$12 - at Rollason Flowers, Hull's Family Bookstore, the Finish Bookstore/Family Nook or any Choral Group member or call 622-5988

Rafiki Youth Choir Concert

Saturday, May 4th at 7:30 pm

at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Tickets at the door - Adults \$8

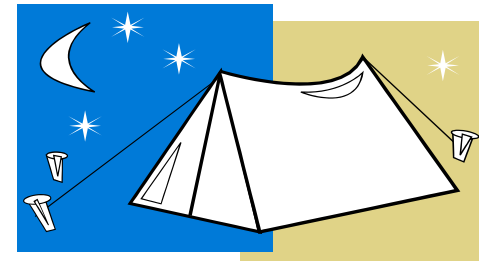
Students \$5

The Scott Woods Swingin' Fiddles concert

Thursday, May 9th at 7:00 pm

at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Advance tickets - \$20 for adults, \$10 for children (under 12), free for children under 5. Tickets are at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church or call 622-4273



Youth Group meeting at Lakeview Church on Sunday, April 21st from 6:30-8:30 pm. The applications to register for summer camp (July 5-11) will be at the Youth Group meeting. The applications to register for summer camp and/or applications for staff or volunteers are also available in the Church Office.