

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023

I fear no evil, for you are with me.

Psalm 23

Sunday, April 30, 2023
The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Breakfast Church

Tolling of the Bell

Prelude *For Everyone Born* arr. Trenney

Welcome and Announcements

*Opening Hymn *Lord, I Want To Be a Christian*

Unison Prayer of Invocation *Barbara Harting, Lay Reader*

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

You make me to lie down in green pastures:

you lead me beside the still waters.

You restore my soul:

you leads me in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;

your rod and your staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. Amen.

Psalm 23

Blessing

*The Peace of Christ

One: "The Peace of Christ be with you."

All: And also with you!

As we pass the Peace of Christ, please send the Jumper from your table to the kitchen to collect the meal. You are encouraged to serve one another and to begin eating as soon as food is on your table!

Acts 2:42-47

Blessing

Sermon

Discussion Questions

Prayers of the People

Choir Anthem

The Prayer

*Sager/Foste
Marybeth and August Costello*

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come;
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.*

Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Amen.

*Closing Hymn

What a Covenant

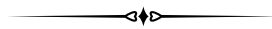
*Benediction

Postlude

Love Grows Here

Besig

*Following the Closing Hymn, we encourage the congregation to remain risen,
in body or spirit, to receive the Benediction, which is both blessing and commission.
You may sit for the Choral Response and Postlude in quiet contemplation.*



*All are invited to the Parish Hall for coffee, tea, and snacks. We understand it can be
difficult to step into a room of strangers. We hope, with every cup and cookie, we can
deepen our connections and learn a little more about each other each week.*

Lord, I Want To Be a Christian

454

African-American spiritual

Deut. 6:5-6; 10:12-16

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart,
3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Refrain

In my heart, in my heart,
In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Many of the enslaved of antebellum America did not want to become Christians because they did not want to adopt the religion of their captors. But this spiritual attests that the Christian faith was an internal strength and aim for many.

Tune: I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN
8.6.8.3. with refrain
African-American spiritual
Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

Deut. 33:27

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

1 What a *cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

Refrain

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

*Or, "fellowship"

In a letter to two grieving friends, A. J. Showalter quoted Deuteronomy 33:27, "... underneath are the everlasting arms." Showalter then wrote this music and the refrain and sent them to E. A. Hoffman to provide the stanzas.

Tune: LEANING 5.5.9.D. with refrain
 Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

Bulletin Reminders for April 30, 2023

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Hearing: Sunday, May 7

Meeting: Sunday, May 14

This Spring several important items will come before the congregation for discussion: updates to our Church By Laws, a proposal for Solar Panels on the Sanctuary roof, and nominations for Officers and Committee members. There will be a presentation on May 7 to allow for expanded discussion; the formal meeting will take place on May 14. (Note, the meeting is a week earlier than in previous years to make space for Children and Youth Sunday, May 21.)

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Sunday, May 7

We will be collecting gifts for this important United Church of Christ special offering on Sunday, **May 7**. (envelopes will be available.) Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing provide immediate aid and long-term support to people experiencing hunger, thirst, disaster, or crisis around the world. There is great need in the world and we can grow weary because we do not know how to help. God's Spirit energizes and re-energizes us in every season. We can make a difference. We do make a difference. Your generosity makes all the difference. The need has never been greater. The opportunity is now. It's time to share.

SPRING CLOTHING SALE

Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3

The Rummage Sale is now: "Pre-Loved/Used Clothing Sale for the whole family" We are encouraging donations of nicer quality items to provide our shelters and schools with the head start they need for success! Please sort and label your donations of men's, women's, teens, babies, boy's and girl's items. We can receive donations beginning Sunday, **May 28** and the following week. As always, we will look for your help and fun participation in the execution of this community service. Details will follow as our plans unfold!
Contact Mattie, (774) 217-3477

AFRICA EXCHANGE PROJECT SPRING GALA

Saturday, May 6, 6:00 p.m.

Featuring Crocodile River Music, a non-profit organization of African artists and educators working with underserved audiences in Massachusetts. The night will be filled with good food and great music. Invite your friends. Learn about the Africa Exchange Project Center for the Study of Science. Tickets are on sale now at www.africaexchangeproject.org/gala. Visit us on *Facebook* and *Instagram*.

Volunteers Needed

We need helpers at all levels. Contact Mattie Schadt (mattieschadt@gmail.com, 774.217.3477).

Tickets on Sale Now

Checks are appreciated, but folks can also use credit cards. \$50.00 per person.

ANNUAL PERENNIAL PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 20, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please check your perennial beds for seedlings and/or plants to be divided for potting up and donating. All gardeners, interested novices, and anybody willing to help, please join the fun. Volunteers are needed for set-up and staffing. Donated perennial plants can be left the week of the sale. Additionally, extra empty pots (at least 6 inches in diameter) may be left next to the shed at your earliest convenience.

Ellen, evrivoire@gmail.com, 508.877.8482

Leona, lldorlmd@verizon.net, 508.481.5770

CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY

Sunday, May 21

Our children and youth have been studying the parable of the Good Samaritan. And who is our neighbor? Make sure to be here for this

LET THE SUN SHINE!

Solar Array Proposed for Sanctuary Roof

At its April 17 meeting, Church Council recommended approval of a large solar array on the south-facing Sanctuary roof and on part of the east-facing Parish Hall roof. *See details in your Wednesday Email.*