



If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

John 12:26

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Serving Christ 52 years in Goderich & 151 years in Dashwood

A Member of
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2024 THEME FOR BEREА & ZION

“WHAT’S KEEPING US HERE?”

“This is what the Lord says to you: Do not be afraid or discouraged- For the battle is not yours but God’s.” 2 Chronicles 20:15

The answer to this question may seem obvious: Our faith in God, the Father, our Saviour Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Because of that we want to be fed by Him through Word and Sacrament, praise Him, worship Him and thank Him. We also want to grow in our faith to live it out, spreading His message to others.

In an ever-changing world with so many challenges, let us make 2024 a year to use the different talents and abilities God has given us to make our church a welcoming place for all. Working together in love because He first loved us! Remembering and trusting: He will be with us and guide us!

BEREA & ZION GUESTS

At the end of worship we would like to invite you to please take a moment to sign our guest book in the foyer.

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome! It's great to have you with us today! If you're here because you're looking for a church family, we're always excited to unite brothers and sisters in Christ.

Talk to Pastor John for more info.

4th Sunday after Easter ~ April 21, 2024

As We Gather

Flocks of sheep can number in the hundreds or even thousands. An annual trek from winter quarters to summer pastures and back again at a location in rural Idaho consistently draws hundreds of spectators to a location where the sheep must cross a major highway to reach their destination. Keeping track of two or three thousand sheep on the move is quite a task! Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows how to care for not just thousands but millions of His sheeplike people. The prophet Isaiah says of the Lord God that He "will tend His flock like a shepherd" (40:11). Assured and reassured that we are part of His flock, we travel through life following the guidance of our caring Shepherd!

+ WELCOME & SHARING OF PEACE +

Opening Hymn

467 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

*1 Awake, my heart, with gladness, See what today is done;
Now, after gloom and sadness, Comes forth the glorious sun.
My Saviour there was laid Where our bed must be made
When to the realms of light Our spirit wings its flight.*

*2 The foe in triumph shouted When Christ lay in the tomb;
But lo, he now is routed, His boast is turned to gloom.
For Christ again is free; In glorious victory
He who is strong to save Has triumphed o'er the grave.*

*3 This is a sight that gladdens— What peace it doth impart!
Now nothing ever saddens The joy within my heart.
No gloom shall ever shake, No foe shall ever take
The hope which God's own Son In love for me has won.*

*4 Now hell, its prince, the devil, Of all their pow'r are shorn;
Now I am safe from evil, And sin I laugh to scorn.
Grim death with all its might Cannot my soul affright;
It is a pow'rless form, Howe'er it rave and storm.*

*5 The world against me rages, Its fury I disdain;
Though bitter war it wages, Its work is all in vain.
My heart from care is free, No trouble troubles me.
Misfortune now is play, And night is bright as day.*

*6 Now I will cling forever To Christ, my Saviour true;
My Lord will leave me never, Whate'er He passes through.
He rends death's iron chain; He breaks through sin and pain;
He shatters hell's grim thrall; I follow Him through all.*

*7 He brings me to the portal That leads to bliss untold,
Whereon this rhyme immortal Is found in script of gold:
"Who there My cross has shared Finds here a crown prepared;
Who there with Me has died Shall here be glorified."*

Invocation and Opening Sentences John 12:26; Ephesians 4:15;
Psa Im 25:1-3, 5, 10; 106:48

P: We come together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN

P: Jesus said: "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honour him."

C: **Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ.**

P: To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust.

C: **Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame.**

P: Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.

C: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

P: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!

C: And let all the people say, "AMEN!" Praise the LORD!

P: Let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and pray for His gracious forgiveness. We begin our time of Confession and Absolution as we sing the hymn "Out of the Deep I Call."

Confession and Absolution

P: We confess our sins to God, our Father.

C: O Lord God Almighty, we confess that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not put You first at all times. We have not followed in the ways You have set before us. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of Your creation and have not shared its bounty on all occasions. We have not kept our thoughts, words, and deeds fully pure and honourable. We have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not even recognize. We have not honoured those in authority and have not without reservation encouraged them. We have not completely put the best construction on all things and on all people. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us all our sins. AMEN

P: The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 23

P: The Lord is my shepherd,

C: I shall not be in want.

P: He makes me lie down in green pastures,

C: he leads me beside quiet waters,

P: he restores my soul.

C: He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

P: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,

C: for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

C: You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

P: Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

C: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. AMEN

Prayer of the Day

P: *We pray.* Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN

+ WORD +

First Reading

Acts 4:1-12

(Peter and John are brought before the Jerusalem Council)

As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But

many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Epistle

1 John 3:16-24

(Followers of Christ are called to love in deed and in truth.)

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Zion Choir – When in Our Music God is Glorified

Holy Gospel

John 10:11-18

(Jesus prays for and about His disciples)

[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

P: These are the Word of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

Profession 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 Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN

Children's Talk (Zion)

Hymn of the Day 709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

*1 The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever.*

*2 Where streams of living water flow,
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.*

*3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid
And home rejoicing brought me.*

*4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.*

*5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!*

*6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever!*

Sermon

The Offerings Are Gathered

(The Offertory Prayer is sung as the offerings are brought forward)

*We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.*

*May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!*

Prayers of the Church

P: Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd who laid down Your life for us out of love. Help us to hear Your voice, follow where You lead, and receive what You provide through Your grace and mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Spirit, equip our church and its leaders to be Your voice to a world lost in sin and needing direction. A voice that points to faith in Jesus alone for forgiveness and salvation. Use us at Berea and Zion to be that voice of hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Spirit, for the times we fear speaking up because of the reticule, embarrassment, mockery, loss of friends, and outright rejection, remind us that we are not alone, we belong to You, and you will see us through. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, we pray for Your love and mercy, healing and strength, to work in the lives of those wrestling through various things. We especially pray for ... and all in our hearts. Carry these lambs in Your arms through the difficult paths ahead. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, we pray for Your blessings on our country and its leaders that we may lead peaceable lives. We also pray for our world and the ongoing difficulties that so many face. May peace be sought and found. May healing began across the land. May fear be replaced with the peace that you provide by the still waters. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, be with those celebrating birthdays, baptismal birthdays, and anniversaries this week. Thank you for the past, and we look forward to the future. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, for these, things and all else that we should have asked, grant us according to Your gracious will, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.
C: AMEN

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; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. AMEN

Benediction

P: The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: AMEN

Closing Hymn

480 He's Risen, He's Risen

***1 He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death's prison, the incarnate, true Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.***

***2 The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.***

***3 But short was their triumph; the Saviour arose,
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.***

***4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.***

***5 Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honour, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.***

*Text: C. F. W. Walther, 1811–87, abr.; tr. Anna M. Meyer, 1867–1941, alt.
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Announcements and Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

BEREA: Organist: Bill Irwin
Altar Guild: Kevin & Heather Ball
Elders: Kevin Ball, Chuck Becker
For Prayer: Lilo 226 421-2436, Elizabeth 237-3622

ZION: Organist: Joanne Maguire
Altar Guild: R.A. Luckhart / K. Hayter
Elders: Ken Rader, Jim Hayter, Tom Hayter,
Randy Bowers
For Prayer: Nancy 237-3653, Brenda 237-3789
Children's Talk: Elizabeth Trembulak
Acolyte: Dayan Brown