



JESUS MAFA. The good shepherd, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48288>

First Presbyterian Church

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Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Leslie Latham

**Come, Worship the Lord, Our God
Third Sunday of Lent: LISTEN TO GOD**

CCLI License # 2839486

Words to hymns are on the back of the bulletin

March 20, 2022

10:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Draw near to God

and God (*raise both arms to the sky*)

will draw near to us. (*bring hands toward heart, crossing them over your heart*)

When we listen to God, we recognize God's voice in many ways.

Let us (*extend arms forward, palms facing upward*)

keep company (*bend elbows and bring together hands in prayer*)

with Jesus. (*sign "Jesus" using right middle finger touching the middle of left palm, repeat with left middle finger touching the middle of right palm*)

GATHERING PRAYER

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear.

And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for thee; ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

~ Clara H. Scott, 1895

***HYMN:** #664 *Morning Has Broken*

CALL TO CONFESSION

In trust, let us call upon God's holy name, confess our sin, listen for God's word, and receive forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

—Rev. Teri Peterson (www.liturgylink.com)

Loving God, you are always speaking, giving us instructions, directing our attention, and telling us your love. We confess that sometimes we are not very good listeners. We aren't sure what is your voice, and what is ours, and what is just noise. We are easily distracted. We like our own ways. But even when we are too busy, you still call. We admit that we find you difficult to hear, and we ask for your help. Open our minds and hearts. Tune our ears to your voice. Help us to listen to what you have to say, and then help us to follow wherever you lead.

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Thank you, God, for hearing us, and for speaking to us. Remind us of your love and forgiveness, and give us strength to be faithful to you. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON #579

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

1 Kings 19:1-18

John 10:11-15, 27

SERMON **“Listen to God”**

The Rev. Leslie Latham

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 and 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, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

God is our rock and our fortress. Let us celebrate our salvation by fearlessly giving a portion of what has already been given to us, either by placing it in the basket in the back of the church, or by mailing it in.

THE OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Receive, O God, the fruits of our labor and with these gifts accept the offering of our lives. Unite us with Christ that we may share in his ministry and glorify you. Amen.

***HYMN:** #687 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

CHARGE

Know that you are in God’s presence and listen for God.

Let your listening heart hear God’s love for you and the world.

Let your listening ears discern God’s voice from those that may distract you.

Let your listening soul be attuned to the Spirit that speaks deep within you.

Let your listening hear the tough words of the prophets of long ago and of our time today.

PRAYER TO OPEN THE ANNUAL MEETING *Book of Common Worship*

Eternal God, you called us to be a special people, to preach the gospel and show mercy. Keep your Spirit with us as we meet together, so that in everything we may do your will. Guide us lest we stumble or be misguided by our own desires. May all we do be done for the reconciling of the world, for the upbuilding of the church, and for the greater glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Hymns

“Morning Has Broken” #664

1 Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them springing fresh from the Word.

2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dew fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning, born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation; praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day!

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past” #687

1 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

2 Beneath the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure.
Sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away.
They fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

6 Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

Scripture Lessons

1 Kings 19:1-18

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." ³Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

⁴But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." ⁵Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." ⁶He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." ⁸He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. ⁹At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁴He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

John 10:11-15, 27

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.

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.