
Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Pottstown

04-18-2010

Easter 3C - Holy Communion

10:15 AM

*Enter in stillness . . . know that the Lord is God.
Listen in reverence . . . it is God who has made us.
Sing with delight . . . it is God who hears us.
Speak with conviction . . . for there is no other God.
Depart in peace . . . it is God's gift to you.
Serve with joy . . . it is your gift to God.*

Reader – Aram Ecker

Greeters – Britney and Ryan Oxenford

Nursery – Volunteers Needed

We are glad to welcome you to our worship of God. If you need directions to any church facility, or would like to obtain information about the church, please see an usher or speak to the pastor prior to or after the service.

LARGE PRINT bulletins, Bibles, and Hearing Assist Devices are available at the back of the sanctuary. Also, please help us maintain a proper worship environment by turning phones and pagers to silent. Thanks for worshiping with us today!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *CANTABILE* GUILMANT

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CHORAL INTROIT *LORD BE WITH US* SANDS

† CALL TO WORSHIP

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God,
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

And also with you!

Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed!

Say to God with great joy:

Wonderful things He has done for us!

New life through the power of the Resurrection!

New hope because of God's love for us!

Renewed love for each other because He loves us!

† HYMN – 363..... *AND CAN IT BE*

A READING FROM ACTS 9:1-20

ACT OF PRAISE – PSALM 30

GIVING OF GOD'S TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Only our members and friends who have made a commitment to the church are obligated to support the ministries of First Church. Visitors should consider themselves our guests.

OFFERTORY *CANZONNETTA* MATTHEWS

† DOXOLOGY – 94. *PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM*

† PRAYER OF BLESSING

You are the Giver of all that we bring to you today, O Lord. We can only return a portion of what you have first given to us. Increase our joy in giving that the world around us might come to share in the wonder of who you are. Amen.

CHANCEL CHOIR *THE NAIL-SCARRED HAND* STEVENS

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN AND 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 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, the power,

and the glory forever. Amen.

A READING FROM JOHN 21:1-19

HYMN – 378..... *AMAZING GRACE*

MESSAGE

PASTOR WILL

CALLED TO WHAT!?!

A PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we come before you today confessing that we do not deserve even the least of your mercies. We have judged others when we might have reached out in love. We have been less than eager to help the poor and dispossessed. We give ourselves to things that do not count in the long run for the sake of convenience in the short term. O turn our hearts to the light of your Son Jesus Christ and give us courage to follow him into the details of our living. And as your forgiven and redeemed people, we shall praise your name forever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our Lord Jesus told his disciples that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in all nations. Brothers and sisters, receive the good news that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

CHORAL RESPONSE THREE FOLD AMEN DANISH

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

(All are invited to the Table of the Lord. There are no conditions attached. Come, if you so desire, to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Offering plates are available for giving to the Cluster and it's ministries.)

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

† HYMN – 377. IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

† CHARGE AND BLESSING

† CHORAL BENEDICTION SANDS THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU

† POSTLUDE FESTIVAL MARCH POWELL

POWERSURGE MODEL OF DISCIPLESHIP

Every member of First Church should:

- Pray Daily
• Worship Weekly
• Read the Bible Daily
• Serve at and beyond First UMC Pottstown
• Relate with Others for Spiritual Growth
• Give proportionately (moving up to a tithe)
• Evangelize – Share the Good News of Jesus

First United Methodist Staff

Ministers: Members of First Church
Pastor: Will Humes
Lay Leader: Dan Waters
Organist and Music Director: Merry Sands

Church Contact Information

Table with 3 columns: Name, Phone Number, Email Address. Includes Church Office, Will Humes, Dan Waters, Merry Sands.

Our Church Website: www.fumcop.org

If you want to reach Pastor Will, the easiest way to do so is to call his Google Voice number: 570-486-4086. When you call this number, his cell phone, the parsonage phone and the church office all ring. If he is near any of these phones, he will answer your call immediately. Of course, if you prefer, you can call the office, the parsonage (610-326-0678) or his cell (610-984-4637) directly.

Baptisms– Those desiring baptism for themselves or their children must have an initial counseling session with the pastor prior to setting a date for the baptism(s).

Marriage – Weddings should be confirmed with the Pastor soon after a date has been set so couples can participate in premarital counseling.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Those interested in our Prayer Shawl Ministry should contact Sissy Spare for more information. Meetings are held monthly in the Prayer Room, with the next meeting being held on Sunday, May 9th at 11:15 am.

Help Someone in Need

To help those in need, you are encouraged to buy Gift cards from various retail stores and groceries and bring them to the Church Office or give them to Pastor Will for distribution to those who need them.

The Labyrinth

Used Book & Gift Shop

The Labyrinth is open Friday Noon – 4pm and Saturday 9:30 am-3:30pm. Please drop by to view the variety of books available at very low costs. We are also in need of teen, young adult, and large print books.

Service Matters

Concerning Altar Flowers

Please contact Lorene Meredith (610-323-6420) to order flowers or provide memorials for Sunday worship. The cost for providing two bouquets for the altar is \$48.40. A single arrangement is \$32.50. If you prefer, donations can be made in lieu of flowers for a gift of \$25.00 or more and artificial flowers will be used in the sanctuary.

A donation in lieu of Altar Flowers has been made by Carl and Barbara Sundstrom in memory of Loved Ones..

Reader and Greeters

Please note there have been some changes to this list. If you cannot serve on the date(s) listed, please let Pastor Will know as soon as possible.

April 18: Reader – Aram Ecker
 Greeters – Britney and Ryan Oxenford
 April 25: Reader – Brad Musson
 Greeters – Janet Austin and Wendy Dorfler

May 2: Reader –Tiffany Bentz
 Greeters – Barb and Jim Pennock
 May 9: Reader – Walter Kochel
 Greeters – Brenda Mace and Gwen Blessing
 May 16: Reader – Sue Sands
 Greeters – Galen and Dorothy Royer
 May 23: Reader – Su McDonald
 Greeters – Brad and Lori Musson
 May 30: Reader – Sissy Spare
 Greeters – Su McDonald and Sue Sands

June 6: Reader – Donna Ecker
 Greeters – Barb and Jim Pennock
 June 13: Reader – Aram Ecker
 Greeters – Britney and Ryan Oxenford
 June 20: Reader – Brad Musson
 Greeters – Janet Austin and Wendy Dorfler
 June 27: Reader –Tiffany Bentz
 Greeters – Shaun Bentz and Shelly Hopko

July 4: Reader – Walter Kochel
 Greeters – Brenda Mace and Gwen Blessing
 July 11: Reader – Sue Sands
 Greeters – Galen and Dorothy Royer
 July 18: Reader – Su McDonald
 Greeters – Brad and Lori Musson
 July 25: Reader – Sissy Spare
 Greeters – Su McDonald and Sue Sands

Giving Matters

Our Faithfulness – April 2nd - 11th

Please Note: This report contains giving received from Maundy Thursday through last Sunday.

Attendance on April 11 th -Worship.	85
Offering Envelopes.	4,203.00
Easter Offering.	736.00
Ash Wednesday.	10.00
Maundy Thursday.	187.00
Good Friday.	53.00

Loose Plate.	112.00
Sunday School Offerings.	98.00
Building Fund.	147.00
Camp Fund.	4.00
Easter Breakfast Donations.	308.00
Initial Offering.	100.00
Interest Income.	242.09
Holy Thursday.	40.00
Easter Flowers.	30.00
Lincoln Center Utilities.	1024.48
Thessalonica Rent.	675.00
Flower Fund.	25.00
Total Income for March 21st.	7,954.57
Amount Needed Each Week.	3,425.00

Deficit for Year to Date. 6,744.00

Please note that the "Amount Needed Each Week" is based upon dividing our budget for the year by 52 Sundays. In order to meet our 2010 budget, we need \$3,425 in total weekly income. The "Deficit (or Surplus) for Year to Date" is a cumulative figure that rises or falls based on the weekly church income from all sources.

Dollar-A-Week for March - The Cluster

The April Dollar-A-Week offerings will go to the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities to aid its ministries. The Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities is again participating in a national program in which donations to the local food bank will be boosted by a private foundation. Any monetary donation collected for the Cluster's food bank during the months of March and April will be eligible for a proportional grant from the Feinstein Foundation, which has a million dollars to distribute among food banks in the U.S.. Contributions must be dated and received during the months of March and April and sent to the following address: Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities, Attn: Feinstein Foundation Challenge, 137 Walnut St., Pottstown, PA 19464. All contributions are tax deductible. This also includes all food donations taken to the Cluster during the months of March and April which will count by the pound.

Bulletin Sponsors

Schumacher and Benner
Funeral Home and Crematory
 Ed Schumacher and Mike Benner
 359 King Street, Pottstown
 610-326-5755
 Meeting Your Family's Needs with
 Professionalism and Sensitivity

Rich Ranieri's Paint and Floor Coverings
 218 E. High St. Pottstown
 610-326-7081

Your Complete Flooring Center – Free Estimates

Strand Shoe Repair & Sales

Les Houck
313 E. High St, Pottstown
610-323-4357
Work Shoes and Boots

J B Supply, Inc.

Keith Kovach
135 Walnut St. Pottstown
610-326-8841
All Your Cleaning Needs and Supplies

McDonalds

Bruce and Marcia Graham
1428 E. High St. Pottstown
610-326-7694

Pottstown Nutritional Foods

Janet Garner
26 S. Charlotte St. Pottstown
610-323-4461

A. Jackson Ecker, Inc.

Aram and Donna Ecker
144 King Street Pottstown
610-326-5011
Plumbing - Heating - Cooling Since 1925

The New VIP Diner

Come to the New VIP Diner on High Street
Bring in this bulletin to receive 5% off your total bill.
Contact Francine Gatone at 484-624-3349 with any questions.
Thank you for your support and God Bless.

Lorene Meredith, Brad and Lori Musson,
Dan and Kendra Waters, Carl and Barbara Sundstrom,
and Gene and Sandy Swann

Reed's Fuel Oil

Stanley Kijek
700 West High Street, Stowe 610-326-3283
24 Hr. Burner Service Prompt Deliveries
Automatic Deliveries

Thanks to these merchants and individuals for their support of
First Church and our ministries. Together we are helping to
make a difference in our community.

This Week at First Church

Sunday, April 18th

9:00 am - First Church Modern Worship
9:00 am - First Church Sunday School - Children
9:15 am - First Church Sunday School - Adults
10:15 am - First Church Traditional Worship
10:45 am - Sunday School for Thessalonica
12 Noon - Worship for Thessalonica
6:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous
7:30 pm - Bible Study on "The Shack"

Tuesday, April 20th

8:30 am - Bible Study at the New VIP Diner
6:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous
7:00 pm - Thessalonica Worship

Wednesday, April 21st

9:30 am - Women's Study at Donna Ecker's
6:15 pm - Alleluia Ringers Rehearsal
6:30 pm - Worship Band Rehearsal
7:30 pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 22nd

6:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous
7:00 pm - Thessalonica Worship

Friday, April 23rd

12 Noon-4 pm - Bookstore Open

Saturday, April 24^h

9:30 am - 3:30 pm - Bookstore Open

Sunday, April 25th

9:00 am - First Church Modern Worship
9:00 am - First Church Sunday School - Children
9:15 am - First Church Sunday School - Adults
10:15 am - First Church Traditional Worship
10:45 am - Sunday School for Thessalonica
12 Noon - Worship for Thessalonica
6:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous
7:30 pm - Bible Study on "The Shack"

The Official Church Calendar can be found online at
www.fumcop.org

Church Planning Retreat – May 23rd

We have cancelled the Retreat scheduled for today at Innabah (not enough participation) and have scheduled this one, to be held at First Church, instead. We will meet from 3 to 6 pm and conclude our time with a Covered Dish dinner together (please bring an entree and/or a dessert or salad to share). Drinks will be provided.

We will use our time together to discuss and share ideas about our church's future and how we can become the church Christ calls us to be in the community. I hope you will decide to join us.

— Pastor Will.

Women's Fellowship Tea – May 8th

Plan to attend this fun event at 1:00pm on the 8th. \$5.00 donation. All women are invited to come and bring a friend or a few! The entertainment will be Hysterical, Historical Hats! While you do not need to RSVP, if you know you will be attending, please sign your name and number attending on

one of the sign up sheets. A meeting of the Tea planners will be held today after church in the Prayer Room. If you would like to make a donation, financial or food, please see Cora Spare or Lisa Harner.

Help the Pastor Serve

Please call Pastor Will anytime you know of someone who is in the hospital or ill, so he may provide pastoral care to those in need.

Wanted:

We need a few good people for the following ministries:
Communion Team Members to help prepare the sacrament for worship - See Dan Waters.
New Greeters and Readers - See Pastor Will.
Bookstore Helpers - See Shawn Lilley.

Toolkit for April 18th — 24th (Take Me Home)

PrayerWalk

Sissy Spare is the contact person for our e-mail prayer chain, and you can reach her with prayer requests at 610-326-6263 or by email at cdspace@comcast.net. We would also love to have more people receiving and praying for the requests we receive, so contact her to add your name to the growing list of "pray-ers."

Prayer Concerns This Week

Dot Hums, Ben Bean, Barb Evans, Liz Yoder, Peggy Bean, Opal Raysor, Lorene Meredith, Dot Guzanowski

Pray for Our Shut-Ins

Frances Lengyel, Beatrice Lightowler, Maxine Marquette, Opal Raysor, Martha Stryjewski, Dot Guzanowski, Elsie Skean, Viva Jean Laver, Mary Jones, Grace Mickley, Judith Stamy, Martha Stryjewski, Sydney and Anna Albright,

Upcoming Birthdays

April 18 - Kendra Waters, 19 - Paul C. Nyce, 20- Jared Haring, 21 - Debra S. Harp, Gwen Himes, Natalie J. Mastrocola, Bethanne Pagano, 22 - Janet Austin, 24 - Jordan Groves, 25 - Mildred James, 29 - Laura Belser, May 1 - Larry Lilley, Dennis Kirk, 2 - Sallie Reitmeyer

Prayers for Our World

Let us pray for the people of Djibouti, Somalia: And in a random searching flame of wind that parches the painful throat and sears the flesh, may God, in compassion, let you find the great-boughed tree that will protect and shade;

through Christ our Lord. Amen. From 'With All God's People, WCC Geneva)

Devotional Readings

Sunday, April 18th

After failure by James Harnish

I live and work with a lot of folks who believe that God has given up on them. They are convinced that their failures are so great that there is no way that God can use them to bring hope or healing to others. Many have lives that are controlled by the memory of some past failure. Many of them throw in the towel and decide that the way life has been is the way it always will be. They accept the identity their failure imposed upon them.

When Fred Snodgrass died in 1974 at age 86, the New York Times obituary headline identified him as follows: "Ball player muffed 1912 fly." It was as if nothing else had ever happened in his life. Snodgrass's story captured my attention because our culture is so deeply addicted to the success and failure of sports stars. What happens when a hero fails? Does Tiger Woods have a future? How does anyone deal with the naked truth of the past?

I'm fascinated by the way John weaves so many memories from the past into this week's Gospel reading. Maybe it points to the way we carry our past around with us, for good or ill. We get to decide what we will do with the memory of our failures. Will they be "all she wrote"? Will they block us from living into the future? Or can they be redeemed and made useful for others?

The early church used the memory of Peter's biggest failure as an example of the power of God to forgive our failures, redeem the past and renew our calling as followers of Jesus Christ. If God could do that for Peter, God can do it for all of us!

My file contains a Living by the Word column in which Craig Barnes wrote,

You can either be a priest or a victim. Those are your only options. What you cannot do is just forget about the hurt, or deny it or store it up to use later. To be a priest is to free others of shame and yourself of hurt. To be a victim is to hold onto hurt, which is like holding onto a disease. It will eat up your soul.

Because the reading from John is layered with memories from the past, I can't help but wonder if Paul was remembering Peter's story when he wrote,

This one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

If he wasn't, he certainly could have. I intend to remember it too.

[James Harnish is senior pastor at Hyde Park United Methodist Church in Tampa, Florida, and author of Strength for the Broken Places.]

Monday, April 19th

Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay."

So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Tuesday, April 20th

Psalm 23

God is my shepherd, I shall not want.
God makes me lie down in green pastures,
and leads me beside still waters;

God restores my soul,
and leads me in right paths
for the sake of God's name.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff - they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of God my whole life long.

Wednesday, April 21st

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God
who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Thursday, April 22nd

John 10:22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the

temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Friday, April 23rd

Prayers of Discipleship *To Hear the Voice of the Good Shepherd*

Focus Question: *What does it mean to listen to Jesus?*

word of life

"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand." John 10:27-28 (NRSV)

Read John 10:22-30

The Fourth Sunday of Easter has long been called "Good Shepherd Sunday". Typically, Psalm 23 is read or sung. As we savor the mystery and joy of the resurrection of Jesus, we are reminded of Jesus as savior, but also as shepherd.

1. *What do you know about sheep?*
2. *What does it mean to be a "good shepherd"?*

John is quite detailed in his description of Jesus in the temple during the festival of the Dedication, Hanukkah. The Jews gather around him to discuss his identity. They want a clear, precise, concise, and direct answer concerning his identity. Is he the Messiah or not? This is not the first time for the Jews to try to sort out his identity.

On previous occasions, Jesus has talked with them and backed up his words with actions. He has given sight to the blind, healed the sick, fed thousands, and proclaimed good news; but they cannot grasp his identity,

3. *What seems to be blocking the Jews from understanding Jesus as the Messiah?*
4. *Why do others more easily grasp the identity of Jesus?*

Since Jesus has already answered their questions, he speaks directly to them. "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep." (John 10:25-26)

5. *How does one become part of the flock of Jesus?*
6. *Why would someone choose not to belong?*

Jesus describes what it means to belong to his own flock. His sheep know his voice and choose to follow. But Jesus is not the only voice vying for attention and listeners. His call may go unheeded as people chase after other shepherds. It is one thing to listen, but it is something else to listen and respond accordingly. This raises the question about listening skills and discerning. The Jews might have heard his words, but they did not respond with any kind of commitment or action. Jesus extends his call and voice, expecting people to follow him.

7. *How do we make sure we listen to the true and good shepherd of Jesus?*
8. *What does it mean to be known by Jesus?*

Jesus promises eternal life and safety, saying "No one will snatch them out of my hand." (John 10:28) These are significant and desirable promises made by Jesus. They might serve as motivation for all who listen to really try to grasp the words of the one whom they question. Jesus makes these claims because he is one with God. Their unity cannot be denied. This connection to God only strengthens his claims and promises.

9. *How might the crowd have responded?*
10. *How do the words of Jesus carry more strength because of his unity with God?*

Saturday, April 24th

word among us

It is not unusual for tennis fans to applaud after a good point in a tennis game. At a junior tennis match, it was noted one parent had a unique rhythm in his clapping as he clapped for his son's good point. It was obvious to the crowd that the father wanted his son to hear his encouragement through his unique style of applause.

1. *How might that feel for a young tennis player to hear the rhythm of his father's clapping and realize his presence in the crowd?*
2. *How might the father feel, knowing he was able to add extra support and encouragement to his son?*

The congregation gathered for their annual spring picnic on the lawn of the church. Laughter filled the air as people waited in line for their food. Over the noise of the crowd, a child's shrill scream was heard followed by the sound of wailing. A young woman left her plate of food and quickly dashed to the scene. She looked back and said, "I recognize that cry. That's my child."

3. *How does a parent learn the cry of his or her child?*
4. *At what point does a child recognize the voice of a parent?*
5. *Any ideas why teenagers sometimes lose that ability to hear their parent's voice?*

Jesus is confident that his sheep hear his voice and respond. His voice must be unique enough to be clearly heard by all who listen, but there is the dilemma. What if a person is not in a relationship with Jesus? How would a person recognize the voice of the shepherd? Would it not be the voice of a stranger? Hopefully, those who grew up in church have the advantage of learning to listen to Jesus through Word and Sacrament.

Take a few minutes to reflect on those people in your life who taught you about prayer and listening to Jesus. Ponder their lives. Recall their stories about how and when they learned to listen to Jesus. Consider the patterns and rhythms in their own prayer life.

6. *Who are some of the people who taught you to listen to Jesus?*
7. *What have they taught you about prayer?*
8. *When it comes to listening to Jesus, what is important to know?*
9. *How confident are you to hear Jesus?*
10. *How might you increase your listening skills towards Jesus?*

Learning to listen to Jesus is a life-long process. Listening to Jesus serves as an anchor in this world. Hopefully, you are blessed by those in your life who take prayer seriously and encourage your prayer life to flourish. If not, seek out those who can nurture your prayer life. And also, take advantage of opportunities to encourage others in their prayer life and discernment skills.

11. *Who have you instructed on listening to Jesus?*
12. *What prevents you from doing more of this type of instruction?*
13. *How might you set aside this coming week for listening to Jesus?*

Prayer

Good shepherd, thank you for calling, caring, and extending eternal life. Open our spirits and hearts, so we might hear you. Amen

Dig Deeper:

Psalm 23

last word

Find a pastoral, serene setting and be open to listen to the good shepherd.

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