



APRIL 30, 2023  
PARK HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
3520 JFK BLVD  
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR 72116  
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Welcome & Announcements Russ Mathis

Welcome from the Guest Pastor Stewart Smith

Prelude Jo Murry

\*Call to Worship Russ Mathis

God chose to reveal to us in Christ the truth of forgiveness and resurrection to eternal life.

**And in our choosing to receive Jesus as Lord of our lives and follow in His way, we respond to God's wondrous gift of love with gratitude.**

God chose us not only to be partakers of the gospel but bearers of the gospel to others.

**Let us worship and give thanks and praise to the risen Lord!**

\*Opening Prayer Russ Mathis (In Unison)  
**Good Shepherd, we rejoice in the bounteous provision you make us, so that we want nothing. We rest in the pleasant places life affords and in the peaceful times. We are thankful for the renewal of our life and strength. After struggle and weariness, even when life is dark and the shadow of death falls on us or those we love, you give us comfort and hope. When adversity closes us in, you send us surprises that fill our cup to overflowing. Your goodness and unfailing love will keep us in your household all the days of our lives, filled with praise and prayer. Bless our time of worship this day, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*Opening Song of Praise #240 "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

Call to Confession Russ Mathis

Prayer of Confession Russ Mathis (In Unison)  
**Gracious God, there are times when we would like to stay in the safe sanctuary of Your sheepfold forever, never leaving the certain walls of Your protecting life, enclosed by clear rules for our living. If we are tempted to lie down within this safety, rather than venturing into the prophetic life to which You call us; forgive us, hold us in Your understanding, then set us free.**

**When we become confused or willful and follow the voice of false shepherds in the temptations of self-indulgence or lack of love for others, shutting our ears to Your call and heading towards a lesser life: forgive us, hold us in Your understanding and set us free.**

**If we tend to close the doors of the sanctuary which you offer to us, excluding others from Your care, creating limits to Your love, even as we hold it to ourselves: forgive us, hold us in Your understanding, and set us free.....  
(Silent Prayers of Confession)**

Assurance of Pardon Stewart Smith

Friends, believe and proclaim the wonderful news of the Gospel:  
**In Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Passing the “Peace of Christ”  
“May the Peace of Christ be with you.” **“And also with you.”**

Prayer for Illumination

Russ Mathis (In Union)

**Thy word, O God, is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Silence within us now any voice but Your own, free us from distracting thoughts, so that we may hear with joy what You say to us this day, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

Reading of the Psalm

Psalm 23

Russ Mathis

**1** The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
**2** He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
**3** he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name’s sake.  
**4** 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.  
**5** You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
**6** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

Russ Mathis

**19** For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. **20** If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God’s approval. **21** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. **22** “He

committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” **23** When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. **24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. **25** For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

John 10:1-10

Stewart Smith

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

“The Shepherd’s Voice”

Stewart Smith

\*Affirmation of Faith  
**We declare that Jesus is Lord. His resurrection is a decisive victory over the powers that deform and destroy human life. His Lordship is hidden. The world appears to be dominated by people and systems that do not acknowledge his rule. But his lordship is real. It demands our loyalty and sets us free from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us. We maintain that ultimate sovereignty now belongs to Jesus Christ in every sphere of life. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.**

\*Song of Affirmation

#801, vs. 1, 3 & 5

“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”

Prayers of the People & 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.**

Stewardship/Offertory/Offering

Stewart Smith

Doxology

#609

\*Closing Song of Commitment

#187

“Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us”

Charge & Benediction

Postlude

Jo Murry

Assisting in Worship:

Guest Pastor Stewart Smith, General Presbyter

Russ Mathis, as Liturgist

Cindy Witherspoon-Allen, as Greeter

Jennie & Dana Pierce, Ushers

Jo Murry, as Piano/Organist

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Sunday, 04/30— 4th Sunday After Easter**

9:45am—Fellowship Sunday School—Parlor

11am—Worship online & in-sanctuary

Guest Pastor Stewart Smith, General Presbyter

### **Monday, 05/01**

10:30am—Monday Morning Prayer Group—Conference Room

6:30pm—Arkansas Scottish Dance Society—Steen Hall

### **Tues. 05/02**

10am—Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team

7pm—Woodworkers

### **Wednesday. 05/03**

4:30pm—Bell Choir

### **Friday, 05/05**

7pm—AR Country Dance Society

### **Sunday, 05/07— 5th Sunday After Easter**

#### **The Lord's Supper**

9:45am—Fellowship Sunday School—Parlor

11am—Worship online & in-sanctuary

Pastor Carl McCormack

## PRAYER NOTES—

**Recent:** Donna Ellis, Margret Nixon, Judy Peters, Sandy Philbrick, Becky Webster

**Continued prayers for:** LaVonne Smith, Karene Jones, Ann & Jack McCollum, Jesse Macon-Teague, Wendell Phillips, Patt Bond, Pat Clark

**Continued prayers for friends of the church:** Shirley Garlington, Stephanie Phillips, Elizabeth Pollard, Norma Smith, Constance Hughes, Charles Clark & Darnell Clark.

**Prayers for those in home confinement:** John Atterbury, Ann Cother, Bunn Falls (Johnson County Health & Rehab, Clarksville, LeMoyne Jones (AR State Veterans Home), Steve Pollard (UAMS), David Rennie, Ann Woods.

**Continued prayers for those in grief:** For the family of Willette Lollar; For the family of David Nabors (from Gail Phillips)

\*Please contact the church office if you need someone placed on or taken off the prayer notes. Thank you.