



St John the Evangelist

Scottish Episcopal Church, Jedburgh
A community of welcome in the Borders

21st April 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

10.00 EUCHARIST

Celebrant: Canon Susan Macdonald

Hymn 115

Now the green blade riseth

PREPARATION

(page 1, blue service book)

Collect

O God, the light of whose truth stretches out to those who go astray, that they may return to the path of righteousness: give your grace to all who profess themselves Christians, that they may cast out what is harmful, and pursue all that gives life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

(page 4, blue service book)

1st reading:

Acts 4:5 – 12

(p. 129, pew Bible)

Psalm 23

**The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want**

2nd reading: 1 John 3:16 – 24 (p. 259, pew Bible)

Gradual Alleluia: *Salisbury Alleluia; Christopher Walker*

The choir sings the Alleluia refrain, which the congregation repeats. The choir/cantor leads the verses after which all will join in singing the refrain.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

5
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Speak, Lord, we listen. Speak your words of wisdom,
that we may receive the words that give life, life for the world:

Refrain

Pray for your needs, and God will always answer.

Where two or three come to pray in my name, I shall be there:

Refrain...

Your words are Spirit, your words are Life.

Lord, we believe that you have the words that bring lasting life:

Refrain

Gospel: John 10:11 – 18

Sermon, Creed, Intercessions, Peace

Hymn 457 The King of love my shepherd is

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND COMMUNION

(page 7, then page 23, blue service book)

At Communion: *there is hand gel on the way to the altar rail for those who wish to handle the chalice themselves. Please do not intinct (dip your wafer in the wine).*

Prayer after *We use prayer (a) on page 30:*
Communion ***“Holy and life-giving God ... ”***

Hymn 113 Love’s redeeming work is done

Blessing and Dismissal

We pray especially today for
Syd Farquharson and Grace Lancaster

Dear Friends and Easter people,

It is not great being called a sheep, is it?

Sheep have become the symbol, in our culture, of mindless compliance with societal norms, of collusion with the status quo. Jesus, however, seems to credit sheep with a good deal of sense – in any case, with the *all-important* sense: of knowing their shepherd’s voice.

Still, would it not be easier, if we didn’t need to be patient followers, trusting beyond our immediate desires? If we didn’t need to suffer the indignities of our limitations? If we weren’t called to ease the sufferings of our neighbours?

Wouldn’t it be easier if our shepherd and saviour didn’t first have to suffer death upon the cross before he entered into heaven?

In the eyes of the world, we may seem foolish to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. A thousand competing voices call to us that we should look for escape instead of sacrifice, should seek an easier bliss than the peace of God, should search for our own greener pastures and

leave the rest of the flock behind. Why would we worship a God who became like us, who died as one of the lambs?

But, in the end, our only wisdom is to know our shepherd's voice. Because the Good Shepherd is the only one who calls us by our own names, our true names, our created names.

It's still not great to be called a sheep. But it is our blessing, our calling, our abundance, to be followers and friends of the Good Shepherd, sheep who are called – called each by name.

With my love and prayers: Andi

Priest-in-Charge

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Toilets are available next door in St. John's Old School
at the end of the downstairs corridor.

Our welcomers have the key to the front door.

News from the Abbey Consort of two forthcoming events:

- **Saturday 27th April – Musica Argentina, 7pm at Wilton Church, Hawick: £15 (free for children)**
- **Sunday 28th April – Organ Recital by John Kitchen, 3pm at Melrose Parish Church: £10 (including refreshments)**