



*Christ in Glory*, 2000-2010. Artist: McLean, Helen.<sup>1</sup>

## ***Service for the Lord's Day***

**April 26, 2026**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

***Gathering Around the Word of Worship***

**Gathering Music**

Ruth Brown

**Striking of the Hour**

**Prelude**

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

Harold DeCou

**Welcome**

*We Rise in Spirit and in Body*

**Call to Worship** (responsive)

from 1 Peter 1:3-5

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has given us new life and hope. He has raised Jesus from the dead.

**God has claimed us as his own. He has brought us out of darkness. He has made us light to the world.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**Opening Hymn 327**

*From All That Dwells Below the Skies*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Adoration and Confession (unison)

Gracious God, from before the foundation of the world, you called us by name and pledged your steadfast love. But like stubborn sheep, we stray from the fold. You offer to lead us, but we prefer to lead ourselves. Christ laid down his life, yet we refuse to lay down our phones, our plans, our pride. Forgive us, O God. Call us back to the open gate of Christ's redeeming love that we may enter your Beloved Community and find restoration for our souls, reconciliation with our enemies, and the glory of abiding with you forevermore. Amen.

*A Silence is observed for Personal Confession*

### Confessional Hymn 518

*Your Only Son*

*LAMB OF GOD*

You're only Son no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side to walk upon this guilty sod and to become the Lamb of God.

**Refrain:** O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God! O wash me in his precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

I was so lost, I should have died, but you have brought me to your side to be led by your staff and rod, and to be called a lamb of God. to **Refrain**

### Declaration of Good News (responsive)

The proof God's amazing love is this: while we were yet sinners, Christ came to us; Christ died for us; and Christ rose from the dead so that the gates of resurrection life may be thrown open wide and all of creation renewed. So believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and restored to new, abundant life.

**Thanks be to God!**

### Passing the Peace (responsive)

The pastures of God are places of peace and safety. The Lord is our Shepherd and he leads us into his pastures to find peace. The peace of the Good Shepherd be with you.

**And also with you.**

### A Time with Young Christians (children welcomed to the front of the sanctuary)

#### ***Hearing the Word***

*All Sit*

### Prayer for Illumination (unison)

O Lord, you lead us in paths of righteousness for the sake of glory and praise. May we learn to recognize your voice in the words of the sacred scriptures, that we may follow you for life. Amen.

### Psalm Reading (responsive)

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

**He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. 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 the LORD my whole life long.**

**Anthem***In Christ Alone*

K. Getty, S. Townend/arr.C. Courtney

*In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song; This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease! My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand. In Christ alone! – who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe. This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save: Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied – For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live. There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain: Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave He rose again! And as He stands in victory Sin's curse has lost its grip on me, For I am His and He is mine – Bought with the precious blood of Christ. No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me; From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No power of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand: Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.*

*All Stand***Gospel Reading**

John 10:1-11a

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."

"I am the good shepherd."

*All Sit***Sermon***God's Sheep am I*

Rev. Kyle Otterbein

***Responding to the Word****All Stand***Response Hymn***In God's Green Pastures Feeding (His Sheep Am I)*

*In God's green pastures feeding, by his cool waters lie  
Soft in the evening walk my Lord and I.  
All the sheep of his pasture fare so wondrously fine.  
His sheep am I.*

*Waters cool (in the valley),  
Pastures green (on the mountain),  
In the evening walk my Lord and I.*

*Dark the night (in the valley),  
Rough the way (on the mountain),  
Step by step (step by step) my Lord and I.*

All Sit

**Affirmation of Faith** (unison)

from the *Second Helvetic Confession*

In all crises and trials of our life we call upon God alone, and do so by the mediation of our only mediator and intercessor, Jesus Christ. For we have been explicitly commanded: "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me" (Psalm 1:15). Moreover, we have a most generous promise from the Lord who said: "If you ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you" (John 16:23), and: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). And since it is written: "How are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed?" (Romans 10:14), and since we do believe in God alone, we assuredly call upon God alone, and we do so through Christ alone. Amen.

**Moment for Mission**

All Sit

**Offering**

*Call to Offering*

**Offertory Hymn**

*The Lord's My Shepherd*

Harold DeCou

All Stand

**Doxology**

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** (unison)

O God, in generosity and love, you prepare gifts for your people and provide for all they need in life. Along with our gratitude and thanks, receive now our offerings as we seek to reflect your love and generosity in the world, so that all the world may know you as Lord and Good Shepherd. Amen.

All Sit

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

*A Moment of Silence*

*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.*

**Bearing and Following the Word into the Created World**

All Stand

**Closing Hymn 187**

*Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

BRADBURY

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Vita sanctorum decus angelorum, verse 2*

Samuel Scheidt

*<sup>1</sup>Note: elements of today's liturgy were adapted from liturgy written by The Rev. Dr. Aaron Pratt Shepherd.*

*<sup>2</sup>Notes: The mosaics in the Church of the Transfiguration are created in the ancient tradition of Byzantine-style mosaics. Building: Church of the Transfiguration, Barnstable, MA.*



## *Announcements*

**USHERS:** Hines and Kernohan families

**COLLEGIATE ENSEMBLE** Sammy Del Rey, Blake Miller, Keelin Murrell, Mack Overfelt, and Johnna Smith

**LAY READER:** Pamela Bratcher

**MEDIA PERSONNEL:** Laura Parkerson

**NURSERY:** Yamilet Bruno Sanchez and Maya Swartz

**LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY MAY 3:** Acts 7:55–60; Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16; 1 Peter 2:2–10; John 14:1–14

### **TODAY**

**DEACON OF THE WEEK** this week will be Jan Morgan. Deacons assist the Pastor in caring for our congregation. You may contact them through the church office: 270-843-4707.

**BUCK IN A BASKET** for today will go to support the Presbyterian Scholarship Fund. Buck in a Basket Offering is a weekly opportunity to consider contributing during the offering for a particular mission not included in our regular budget.

**THE AFTER CHURCH EATING OUT GROUP** will meet today at Thai Thai Restaurant, 712 Chestnut St. Thai dishes make good lunch options because they tend to be on the lighter side and incorporate fresh ingredients. Come join us! This group is for people who like to go out to eat after church and enjoy visiting with others. We hope you can join us for delicious food and great conversation!

**OTTERBEIN RECEPTION** The Otterbein Reception will take place today at 4:00 p.m. at the home of Sandy Franklin, 1740 Greenview Ln. We invite you to join us for this heartfelt gathering as we celebrate Pastor Kyle and LeAnn. This will be a special time to honor their faithful leadership, their compassion, and the many ways they have poured love, guidance, and strength into our church family. Your presence helps us surround them with gratitude as they prepare for the next chapter of their journey.

**MOMENT FOR MISSION** Child Abuse Prevention Month: A report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds in the United States. Kentucky has led the nation in child abuse rates for the past three years. An average of five children die every day due to child abuse and neglect. Unfortunately, many more cases may never get reported. One victim of child abuse is one too many.

#### ***What you can do:***

- Know what child abuse is.
- Know the signs of abuse.
- Start small, support the children and families in your circle.
- Report suspected abuse at 1-877-KY-SAFE1
- Find out more and donate at [fecbg.com](http://fecbg.com)

### **OTHER NEWS**

**YOUTH MEALS** Are you interested in providing a home-cooked meal or purchasing a meal for our youth? We are seeking volunteers for meals for our youth during our Sunday group meeting. If you are interested in volunteering, a sign-up sheet is available in the church landing.

**SAVE THE DATE-STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE** Our church has been invited to participate and receive donations for our food pantry, from the Postal Service food drive. We need volunteers on May 9, from 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. at the US Post Office on Scottsville Rd. to help sort, and transport donations. Please call Frederica Kernohan 270-981-7904 or the church office, if you have some time to assist.

**SAVE THE DATE** Cecelia Memorial will be taking donations for the upcoming 7th Annual Spring Giveaway at 716 College Street. They will be accepting anything from clothing to household items to toys. The date for the event will be Saturday, May 16 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Call or Text Lovelyn Williams at 619-368-2103 if you have or donation or questions regarding the event. Thank you for your help in advance.

**SAVE THE DATE** The Lane Celebration will take place on Sunday, May 31 at 12:00 p.m. after worship service in Fellowship Hall. Please come join us for this joyful celebration to warmly welcome our new pastor, Rev. Patrick Lane and his wife, Rev. Brittany Lane, as they begin their ministry with us, and to surround them with love, support, and gratitude as they join our church family. This will be a Bowling Green/Kentucky themed Potluck.

**OUR NEW DIRECTORY**—You can now access our church directory through an app on your



cell phone or tablet. Just scan the QR code to go directly to the app to download it on your phone or tablet. Once you download the app, you will be directed to search for the directory of The Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green. Just use your email address to gain entry to our directory (you must have your email address that is in the directory to gain access).



**LAY READERS NEEDED FOR MAY/JUNE** A signup page is online for lay readers in the coming weeks. If you are willing to serve one Sunday, please scan the QR code to visit this link and sign up for a date. Lay reader information will be emailed on the Friday prior to the date. Thank You!



## WELCOME VISITORS!

We invite you to pick up visitor's information on your way out, either in the narthex or on the table on the right in the downstairs entrance hall. Ushers will be standing by to help you find them. Always know that a cordial greeting is extended by the minister, officers, and congregation.

**Clerk of Session:** Debbie Trickey    **Treasurer:** Steve Moore  
**Elders:** Class of 2026- Pam Bratcher, Rachel Crocker, Claire Ellington, J.B. Hines, Susan Howard, Mike Kanan; Class of 2027-Sam Evans, Nathan Love, Susan Thomison, Debbie Trickey, Larry Warden; Class of 2028-Clark Carthrae, Buzz English, Julia Roberts, Julie Wedge; **Deacons:** Class of 2026-Phil Burkeen, Kim Ferguson, Kathy Higgins, Laura Parkerson, Dan Stelling, Brianna Trickey; Class of 2027-Trudy Burkeen, Georgeanna Capito, Sally Calkins, Nancy Carwell, Evan Goad, Frederica Kernohan; Class of 2028-Nancy English, Sharon Hendrix, Jan Morgan, and Margaret Stein.

### The Presbyterian Church Staff

*Transitional Pastor*  
*Director of Student Ministries*  
*Director of Music/Chancel Choir Director*  
*Children's Music Director*  
*Organist*  
*Financial Administrator*  
*Treasurer*  
*Office Coordinator*  
*Director, Preschool Learning Center*  
*Custodian*  
*Clerk of Session*  
*Sound Attendant/Sunday Sexton*

*Rev. Kyle Otterbein*  
*Mrs. Lilly Hunter*  
*Dr. Wayne Pope*  
*Mrs. Beth Pope*  
*Dr. Nathaniel Brown*  
*Mrs. Terry Johnson*  
*Mr. Steve Moore*  
*Mrs. Robin Watkins Tolbert*  
*Ms. Kimberly Watkins*  
*Mr. Cedric Whitney*  
*Mrs. Debbie Trickey*  
*Ms. Laura Parkerson*

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### Calendar

#### Sunday, April 26

9:15 a.m. Sunday School Gathering  
9:15 a.m. Children's Music  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts  
9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Circle  
9:45 a.m. Godly Play  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
12:00 p.m. After Church Eating Out Group  
4:00 p.m. Otterbein Reception

#### Monday, March 27

9:00 a.m. GOD/DOG is Love

#### Tuesday, March 28

11:00 a.m. Special Care  
12:00 p.m. Inspirational Meditation  
1:00 p.m. CUICHM

#### Wednesday, April 29

7:00 a.m. Breakfast Group  
5:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

#### Friday, May 1

7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group

**The Presbyterian Church, 1003 State Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101**  
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**Pastor Kyle Otterbein • [kyle.otterbein@bgpres.org](mailto:kyle.otterbein@bgpres.org) • 319-400-6546**