

# Worship from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Richmond, Virginia

May 3, 2020

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

## WELCOME

*The Rev. Gary D. Jones, Rector*

## OPENING MUSIC

"The Sun Never Says"

Words: Hafiz/Dan Ladinsky

*St. Stephen's Virtual Choir*

*Peter Greydanus, cello*

Music: Dan Forrest

Even  
After  
All this time  
The sun never says to the earth,

"You owe  
Me."

Look  
What happens  
With a love like that,  
It lights the  
Whole  
Sky.

## POEM

"Listening for Your Name"

By David Graham

*Becky Lehman*

As a father steals into his child's half-lit bedroom  
slowly, quietly, standing long and long  
counting the breaths before finally slipping  
back out, taking care not to wake her,  
and as that night-lit child is fully awake the whole  
time, with closed eyes, measured breathing,  
savoring a delicious blessing she couldn't  
name but will remember her whole life,  
how often we feel we're being watched over,  
or that we're secretly looking in on the ones

we love, even when they are far away,  
or even as they are lost in the sleep  
no one wakes from—what we know  
and what we feel can fully coincide, like love  
and worry, like taking care in full silence  
and secrecy, like darkness and light together.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION AND THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Book of Common Prayer, page 355

*The Rev. William S. Stanley*

## THE COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Kay Remick*

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

*The Rev. Stephen Y. McGehee*

Jesus said, “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 HOMILY

*Allison Seay*

## MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

My shepherd will supply my need

*Brent te Velde*

## THE LORD’S PRAYER

*Jeannie Knight*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Oliver, Charlotte, Virginia, and Caroline Smith*

We hold before God:

those for whom life is very difficult; those who have difficult decisions to make, and who honestly do not know what is the right thing to do.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We hold before God:

parents who are struggling to make ends meet, children who miss their friends and teachers at school, and grandparents who wish they could be there to help. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We hold before God:

Those who are homeless or unemployed, those who are sick or dying, as well as family or friends who wish they could be with them.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We hold before God:

those who are disoriented or depressed by the sameness of their days, and all who are lonely, anxious, or afraid.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We hold before God:

those who are grieving the loss of someone they loved, and anyone who is disappointed in something for which they had hoped very much.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We hold before God:

All of us who are waking again to the blessings in our lives, during this time of adversity, that the stirrings to new life that we sense today will take root and blossom when the time of trouble has past.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, among the swift and varied changes of this life, help us to center our lives on you, trusting that you are preparing for us, and all whom we love, more than we could ask or imagine; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*Ava Bridges*

## HYMN

We believe in God

Tune: *Hyrfydol*

*St. Stephen's Virtual Choir*

## CLOSING

*The Oakey Family*

*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.*

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“Listening for Your Name” by David Graham from *The Honey of Earth*. Terrapin Books © 2019. Used with permission.

Music for meditation: My shepherd will supply my need, played by Brent te Velde

Prayers of the People adapted from the Northumbria Community

Thank you to the Oakey Family, Mulberry Hill Farm

Photo of Good Shepherd window by Doug Buerlein

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