



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell  
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**May 8, 2022**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**Mother's Day**

**REFLECTION**

*Jesus reveals God's nature to us, and calls us to be his own, aligned with God's vision. Jesus' sheep are ultimately safe, and their safety lies in their alignment with God's vision for them and the world. At first glance, this passage appears to separate those who hear and those who don't and suggests joy and sorrow for the respective groups.*

*~Rev. Bruce Epperly*

**PRELUDE**

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

arr. Lloyd Larson

**WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

As a shepherd calls to their sheep,

**We are listening for the call of God to follow.**

As a shepherd cares for the lambs, looking out for the lost and least,

**We are called to seek out the lost and least in our world.**

As a shepherd rejoices when the lost sheep are found,

**We rejoice and welcome one another in the name of Christ.**

As a shepherd leads the sheep to safety and rest,

**We enter this time of worship, finding safe rest in our God.**

**\*\*HYMN No. 173**

*A Woman and a Coin*

LIFE RESTORED

A woman and a coin: the coin is lost.

How much it means to her, what time and toil.

What part it was to play in her bright dreams!

Am I that treasured coin worth searching for?

I'm found, and you rejoice!

What love!! What love!!

A shepherd and a sheep: the sheep is lost!

Far from the flock, the one in hundred cries,

Then, risking life, the shepherd's voice and staff!

Am I that treasured sheep worth dying for?

I live, and you rejoice!

What love! What love!

A parent and a child: the child is lost!

The parent feeds on memories and hope,

The prodigal on husks and one last chance.

Am I that treasured child worth waiting for?

I'm home, and you rejoice!

What love! What love!

Dear God, you sought us when the world was lost;  
You gave your only son at what a cost;  
Your Spirit welcomes home the tempest-tossed:  
Now we can be all you were dreaming of.  
We're safe, and you rejoice!  
What love! What love!

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(In Unison)*

**Loving God, we come to You with all our emotions, our grief and our joy, our bewilderment and our anger, our sadness, fear, and hopefulness. We are a messy people and sometimes our hearts are a mess. Loving God, we know that You welcome us and accept us as we are. We know that one day our tears will be wiped away and our sorrow turned to joy, but until that day, help us to know that we are okay exactly as we are. We are okay if we grieve or are sad longer than others expect. We are okay if we doubt and question. We are okay in our fears and frustrations. And we are okay in our joy. Help us to grow in You and with each other in mutual understanding and care. Help us to carry one another's burdens, as You carry us. In the name of Christ, who calls us into loving community, we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** *(From Revelation 7:17)*

“For the lamb of God will be our shepherd, and he will guide us to the springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from [our] eyes.” In God we will find comfort, refuge, and eternal rest.

**Until then, in one another, we find the hope and courage that comes from God, to bear one another's burdens, to offer grace and forgiveness. For the Lamb is our shepherd, and we know his voice, and he will lead us home, into reconciliation and peace. Amen.**

**\*\*HYMN No. 315, St. 4**

*In the Midst of New Dimensions*  
We are man and we are woman,  
All persuasions, old and young,  
Each a gift in your creation,  
Each a love song to be sung.  
God of rainbow, fiery pillar,  
Leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey  
Now and ever, now and ever,  
Now and evermore.

NEW DIMENSIONS

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

*This morning, the Sacrament of Baptism is given to Maxwell James Piercy-Boyle, son of Dennis Boyle and Joelle Piercy, born on September 19, 2019. Representing the congregation is Elder Elizabeth Resch.*

**\*\*Hymn No. 488**

*I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*  
I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
To see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child,  
With a faith to suit you well;  
In a blaze of light you wandered off  
To find where demons dwell.

WATERLIFE

When you heard the wonder of the Word  
I was there to cheer you on;  
You were raised to praise the living Lord,  
To whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time  
And you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
From dusk 'till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,  
Not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
Complete what I've begun.  
When the evening gently closes in,  
And you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been  
With just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your morning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
To see your life unfold.

*Children in kindergarten – 7<sup>th</sup> grade may exit the sanctuary for Sunday School*

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

*Psalm 23*

**GOSPEL LESSON**

*John 10:11-18*

**SERMON**

*Our Good Shepherd*

Rev. William Schram

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*The Shepherd*

Text by William Blake (1757 – 1827)  
Music by Lee Hoiby (1926 – 2011)

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**MOTHER'S DAY LITANY**

God you have created many ways we have known the love of those we call mothers. We give thanks for all these.

**Everyone here is a son or daughter and we lift our thanks for our mothers.**

For women who have left this life and live on in God, those whom we miss we give thanks

**For all women working day and night to raise children right now, we lift thanks and support.**

To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children – we sit with you

**For all women who are expecting, and not quite mothers yet, we lift thanks and anticipation.**

To those who step-parent – we walk with you on these complex paths

**To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment – we walk with you**

For the women who took in others' children as a relative, in adoption or foster care, we lift prayers of thanks for hearts so big.

**For women who lost a child to death and must carry on we lift thanks and encouragement.**

To those who placed children up for adoption — we commend you for your selflessness and remember how you hold that child in your heart

**For women who love children and instead of having them chose to mother everyone else, we lift thanks for mothers in spirit.**

We thank you Lord for women who have influenced our live in so many ways.

**Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst. May we honor them in all we do.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER & 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 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.**

**\*\*HYMN No. 324**

*For All the Faithful Women*

NYLAND

For all the faithful women who served in days of old,  
To you shall thanks be given; to all their story told.  
They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.  
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save.

We praise your name for Miriam, who sang triumphantly  
While Pharaoh's vaunted army lay drowned beneath the sea;  
For Ruth, who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,  
Who pledged to serve and worship Naomi's God till death.

We sing of busy Martha, who toiled with pot and pan  
While Mary sat in silence to hear the word again.

We praise the other Mary, who hastened to the tomb  
And found her Lord arisen, dispelling doubt and gloom.

Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas, who served the sick and poor.  
Her hands were cups of kindness, her heart an open door.  
O God, for saints and servants, our fervent prayer we raise,  
That, faithful in your service, our lives may sing your praise.

**\*\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Simple Gifts*

arr. Charles Callahan

**\*\*Those who are able may stand.**

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Rev. William Schram

Rev. Barbara Piercy

Noel A. Piercy

Susan Jones

Micki Hardenberg, Cantor & Soloist

Chancel Handbell Choir

Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers