

**PRAYERS for April 30, 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Worship Assistant:** On this fourth Sunday of Easter, let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

**Worship Assistant:** Glorious Shepherd, You fortify our spiritual lives with Your presence when we read Your Word, when we speak with You in prayer, when we sing hymns to praise You, and when we worship You. May we always bear in mind that we are Your sheep, and that You are our good and great Shepherd. Keep us forever within the sound of Your voice and make us evermore obedient to Your call. We ask this in confidence, knowing that You love us, knowing that You are constantly surrounding us with Your protective arms, and knowing that You forgive us for sometimes straying from Your Word.

**Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.**

**Worship Assistant:** Holy Shepherd, You know Your sheep by name and lead them to safety in the valleys of life. Protect all members of Your holy family: the unborn, the children, the youth, the adults, and the elderly. You have promised to search out Your lost sheep. Please find and save those who are lost. Help us take Your message to those in the world who do not know You. Remind us to keep our faith in You so that we can look to the future with hope. Remind us that You will bring us through this challenging period in our world and in our lives.

**Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.**

**Worship Assistant:** Guiding Shepherd, we know that You are in control. We ask for guidance for our government's leaders and direct them in the way You would have our nation go in these difficult times.

**Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.**

**Worship Assistant:** Loving Shepherd, hold in Your comforting arms all those people who are hurting today. Grant healing and an extra measure of Your love to those who are ill, give relief to those who are in pain, provide food to those who suffer from hunger, and offer gladness to those who live in sadness and despair. Especially be with all the friends and families on our prayer list and those that we name today in our hearts or say their names aloud.

**(Wait at least 20 seconds for names.) Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.**

**Worship Assistant:** Good Shepherd, as Christians we know that every day begins and ends with You. Christ came to earth to give us abundant life and eternal salvation. We give You thanks as we treasure each day and use every day to its fullest. Help us learn from this time of isolation, giving thanks for the extra family time that we have experienced and as we see its true benefits. Help us give thanks for Your blessings today and move on to the future according to Your master plan.

**Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer. Pastor:** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**