

Sixth Presbyterian Church

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Sunday, April 26, 2026



We gather as God's people for worship and to share the gifts, strengths, and talents of all who are here while respecting the beliefs, opinions and struggles of others as we strive to love one another as God loves us.

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www.sixthchurch.org

Sixth Presbyterian Church
Sunday, April 26, 2026, 11:00 am
4th Sunday of Easter

The Sanctuary is a sacred space. The choral chimes will ring three times to let you know it is time to quiet your hearts, minds, and voices to prepare for worship.

Prelude “Rondeau” Henry Purcell

Welcome and Announcements

Peace Candle

Introit “Sing, Joyous Christians”

Sing, joyous Christians! Sing forth your alleluias!

Christ, our redeemer, from death is risen, Alleluia! Death and hell are conquered, Alleluia!

Christ, have mercy! Alleluia!

Call to Worship

We have been through much, but the Lord has been with us,
and so we find peace and give thanks.

The Lord is our shepherd; we have everything we need.

Through shadow and light, through death and birth, through grief and joy,
we have never been alone. We rest in that truth.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives,
and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

*Hymn “From All That Dwell Below the Skies” 327

*Prayer of the Day

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of community, you call us to a world radically different from what we are used to. You ask us to lay aside our ideas of “mine” and “yours.” You show us a life where goods are shared, where all are loved, and faithfulness is shown through generosity. But we cling to our possessions, trusting them more than we trust you. Forgive us, merciful God. Help us to truly believe in your just and peaceful realm and to work to make it so.

Silent Confession

327 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

(Psalm 117)

Unison

1 From all that dwell be-low the skies let the Cre - a - tor's praise a -
 2 In ev - ery land be - gin the song; to ev - ery land the strains be -
 3 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord; e - ter - nal truth at - tends thy

Harmony *Unison*

rise: Let the Re - deem - er's
 long: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! In cheer - ful sound all
 word: Thy praise shall sound from

name be sung through ev - ery land, in ev - ery tongue.
 voic - es raise and fill the world with joy - ful praise.
 shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.

Harmony

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Because Psalm 117 contains only two verses, Watts's paraphrase had only two stanzas. Most later hymnals have created or borrowed additional stanzas, like the one included here, to enlarge the hymn. Perhaps the best solution is found by adding Alleluias, as this tune invites.

Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score is written for a unison voice and piano accompaniment. The key signature is G minor (two flats: Bb and Eb). The time signature is 4/4. The vocal line is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, providing a harmonic support for the vocal line. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Kyrie, Lord Have Mercy

579

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
 Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical notation is in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains two measures of music, each with a circled melodic line above the lyrics. The second staff contains two measures, with a long horizontal line above the lyrics indicating a sustained note or breath mark.

Assurance of Pardon

*Gloria

581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the
 Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -
 gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,
 world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The musical notation is in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The final measure of the fourth staff has a circled melodic line above the lyrics.

Time of Wonder

Jenny Newman

*Exchange of Peace

Remembering that some of our church family is watching the livestream, let us first turn to the cameras and say, "Peace be with you!" (*turn and offer the peace.*) Being mindful of the comfort levels and boundaries of those around us, let us pass the peace of Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word.

Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

John 10:1–10 , p. 126

Second Scripture Reading

Psalms 23 , p. 617

Response to the Scripture Readings

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Charissa Howe

*Hymn

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

187

*Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.22

New life in Christ takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God’s grace.

Prayers of the People

As led between petitions, all are invited to respond: God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

The Lord’s Prayer

2019 Vatican Update

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; do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory Sentence

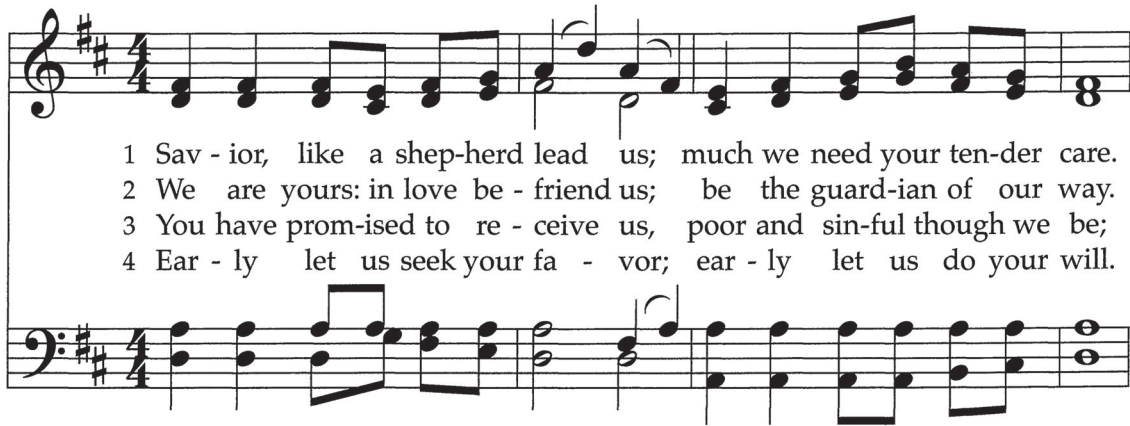
1 John 3:16–17

How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods yet refuses to help a sister or brother in need? Remembering God’s great love for the world, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

For our electronic giving option, scan QR code:



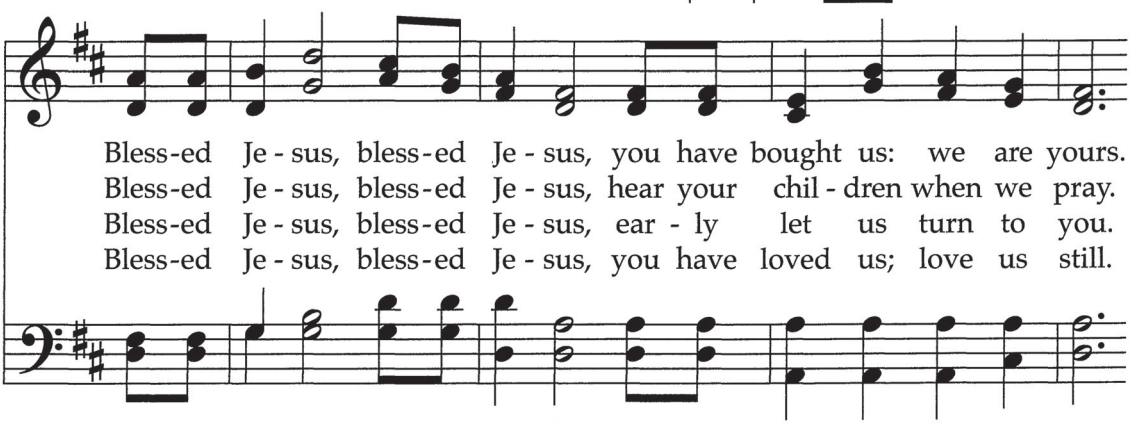
Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us 187



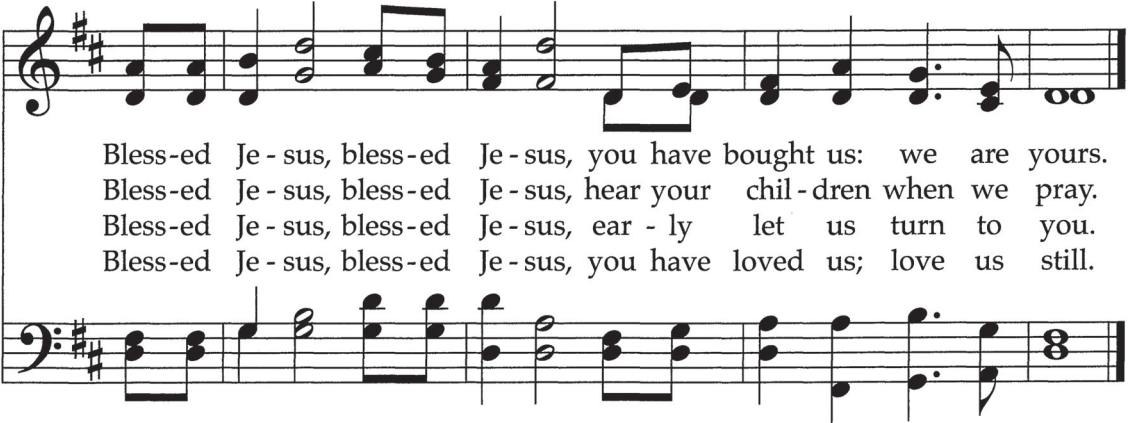
1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.
2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.
Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a-stray.
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

This unattributed hymn, like many that are now meaningful to adults, was written for children and develops shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18. The tune, composed for these words, was originally named for the text but has come to be known by the composer's name.

Offertory Anthem

“Brother James’ Air”

arr. Gordon Jacob

The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want, he makes me down to lie
In pastures green. He leadeth me, the quiet waters by.
My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of blessedness, e’en for his own name’s sake.
Yea, though I pass through shadowed vale, yet will I fear no ill;
For thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still.
My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
My head with oil thou dost anoint, and my cup overflows.
Goodness and mercy all my days will surely follow me;
And in my father’s heart always my dwelling place shall be.

*Doxology

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

608

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn

“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

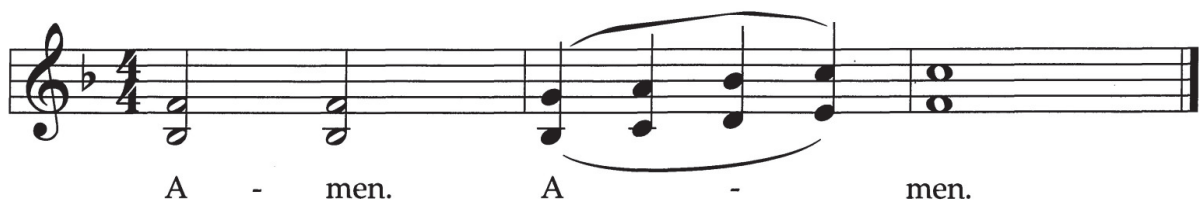
542

Benediction *All are welcome to join in singing:*

May the peace of our Lord Christ go with you wherever he may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

*Amen

599



Postlude

“Sortie in D Major”

G.F. Handel

Feel free to sit and enjoy the Postlude or quietly leave as you wish.

**Those who can may stand*

542 God Be with You Till We Meet Again

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; un - seen
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's

coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en -
 wings pro - tect - ing hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro -
 per - ils thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing arms a -
 ban - ner float - ing o'er you; smite death's threat - ening wave be -

fold you:
 vide you:
 round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 fore you:

After writing the first stanza of his "Christian Good-bye," the author sent it to two composers, one celebrated and one unknown, to see how each would set it. This is the second person's tune, which the author found more effective and used for the hymn's first publication.

Church Announcements

Today's Service:

Eliot Kennedy (liturgist); Greg Winner (livestreaming); Barb Parees, Pamela Twiss, Tom Twiss (ushers)

Liturgy resource: From *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching, and the Arts*, April 26, 2026. Used by permission. © 2026 Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). calltoworshipjournal.org

Coffee Hour After Service

Refreshments can be found in the chapel after worship.

Church and Community Meeting Today

Join them in the parlor after service.

Sixth Earth Care Team - Food Justice: Next Meeting Tuesday, April 28

The meeting will be held at 7:30 in the Chapel, both in person and on Zoom*.

The remaining meetings will be held on Tuesday evenings until June 2. Then we'll head outdoors to plant the crops we hope to distribute at the end of the summer.

It's not too late to join us! Even if you haven't signed up yet, you're still welcome.

To register, please contact Nora Johnson.

**You will receive the Zoom link after registration if you choose to join remotely. A recording of the first meeting will be available soon.*



Commonplace Coffee Shop Hours

The last Wednesday of every month, Pastor Charissa will be camped out at Commonplace Coffee in Squirrel Hill from 8-10am for casual office hours. See you at the coffee shop!

*Wednesday, April 29th from 8-10am.
Commonplace Coffee on Forbes Avenue.*



Leadership Inquiry Event Tonight! Join Us on Zoom at 7PM

Anyone who is interested is encouraged to attend, even if you haven't submitted a form.



Marathon Sunday Alert- May 3rd

The 2026 Pittsburgh Marathon is next week. Please plan your church commute accordingly. Course maps can be found on the race website, www.thepittsburghmarathon.com.



Adult Education Workshop in Schenley Park, May 30th

Through contemplative/mystical Christianity, Zen Buddhism, and depth-oriented psychology, this experiential workshop will explore the spiritual and psychological dimensions of our interrelationship with the other-than-human natural world. The spirit of the workshop will be one of warmth, wonder, open inquiry, mutual collaboration, and fun! For more information and registration, follow this QR or go to www.sixthchurch.org. →



SAVE THE DATE: Worship in the Park, May 31st- 11:00AM

Mark your calendars for our annual Worship in the Park service in Highland Park! Sunday, May 31st at 11:00AM. More details to come.

Upcoming Meetings and Events in (and around) the Church:

Sunday, April 26 (after worship)

Church and Community Mtg (12pm, Parlor)

Coffee Hour (12pm, Chapel)

MCC & Monthly Bday Party (1:50-3:30pm,

Parlor; then Chapel & Kitchen, 3:30-6pm)

NA- Keep Coming Back Men's Mtg (8-9pm)

Monday, April 27

Connect More (6-8:30pm, *see flyer on back page*)

Tuesday, April 28

Staff Meeting (10am, Office)

Food Justice Project (7:30-9pm, Chapel & Zoom)

Wednesday, April 29

Coffee Shop Office Hours (8-10am, Common-place Coffee)

Bible Study (10:30-11:30am, Zoom)

Thursday, April 30

Youth Group at Sixth (4:30-7pm)

Choir Rehearsal (7:30-8:30pm, Chapel)

Friday, May 1

Tri Lam (2-5pm, Parlor)

Saturday, May 2

AA-Turning Point (5-6pm)

Pgh Bridges OCD Support (6-9pm, Parlor)

NA-Squirrel Hill Group (7:30-8:30pm)

Sunday, May 3

Sunday School (10am)

Choir Rehearsal (10am, Sanctuary)

Worship (11am-12pm, in-person & streaming)

Engagement Committee Mtg (12pm, Parlor)

Coffee Hour (12pm, Chapel)

MCC (1:50-3:30pm, Parlor)

NA- Keep Coming Back Men's Mtg (8-9pm)

Connect More– Mondays through May 11

Are you currently listed as a “friend of Sixth?” Or maybe you didn’t even know we have a directory of members and regular attendees (“friends”)? Join us around the dinner table for a four-week gathering where we will explore:

- The history and heart of Sixth Church
- What it means to be Presbyterian
- Next steps for membership and leadership.

**Email Pastor Charissa or scan the QR code below for details/to RSVP.
Children and families are more than welcome to attend!**



Please RSVP if you
would like to attend.

Mondays, April 20– May 11

6:00-8:30 PM

Pastor Charissa’s House



Rev. Dr. Charissa Howe, *Pastor*
Jenny Newman, *Director of Christian Education*
Shay Carter McGraw, *Music Director*
Harry Kirk, *Building Administrator*
Kelly Johnson, *Office Administrator*
John S. McCall, *Pastor Emeritus*

To be added to the church newsletter email list, request pastoral care, or for any other questions or concerns, please contact us here.

