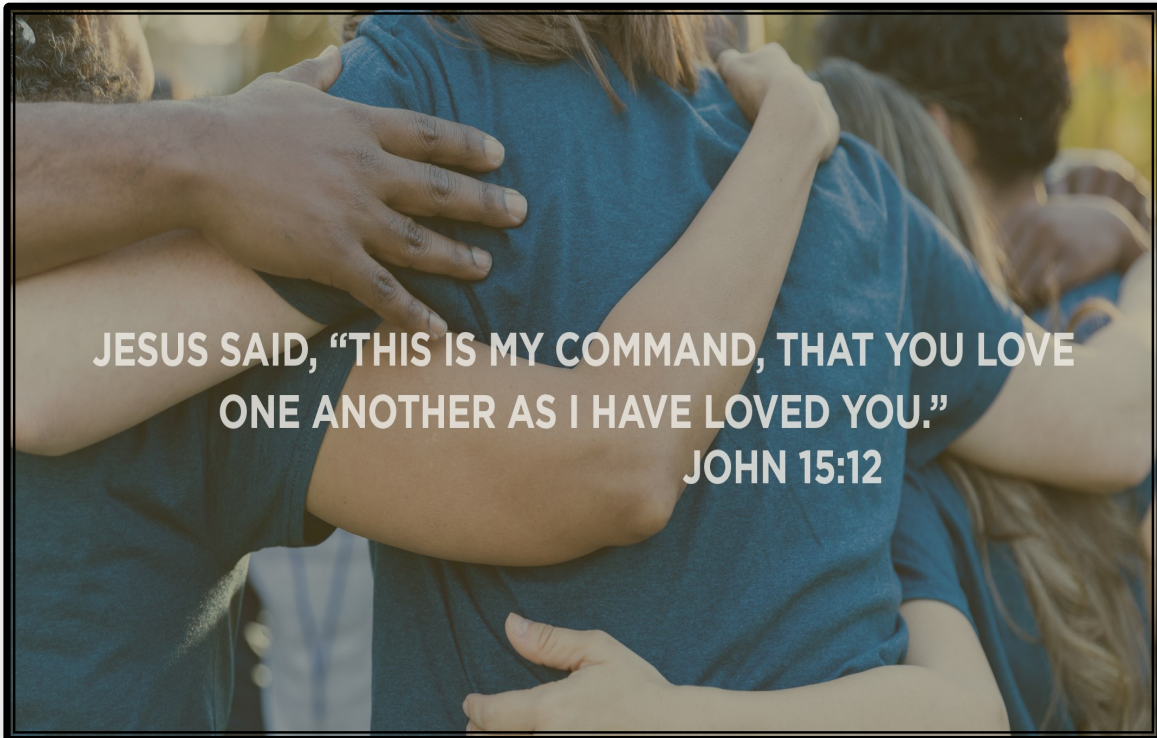


Welcome to Shepherd of the Desert
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Sixth week of Easter
May 4,5, 2024



Gospel: John 15:9-17
Sermon: Forever Friends
Pastor: John Maroni

Shepherd of the Desert Mission Statement

"To be a congregation that puts the Love of Christ into action from one generation to another and from our community to our world".

✠ Please stand as you are able when noted.

Preludes Air

Shepherd Me, O God

Young
Lasky

Words of Welcome Pastor John Maroni

✠ **Confession and Forgiveness**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C Amen

✠ **Gathering Hymn** Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

ELW 789

✠ **Greeting**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

✠ **Kyrie**

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

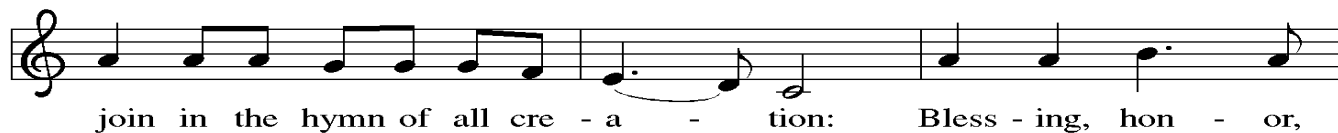
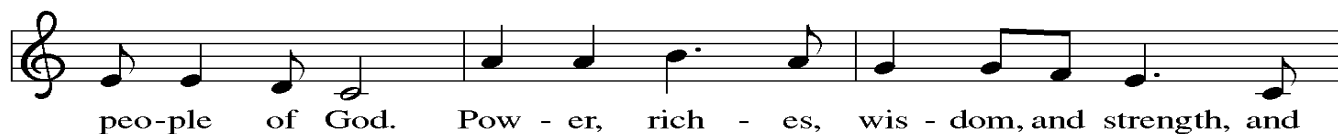
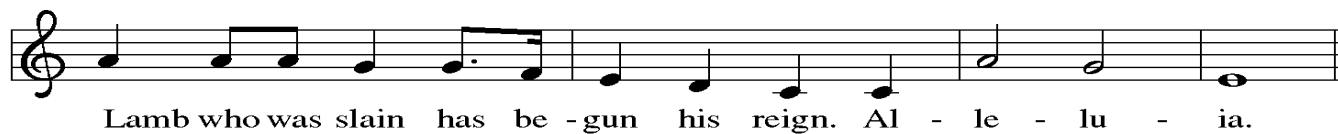
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen

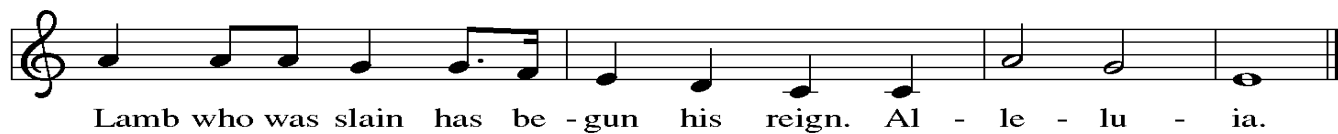
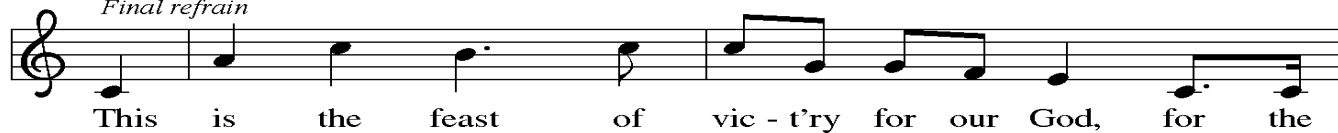
⦿ This is the Feast

Setting 8

Refrain



Final refrain



✠ Prayer of the Day

A O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said,

⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 98

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands. (Ps. 98:4)

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made | known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD | with the harp,
with the harp and the | voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound | of the horn
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers | clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to | judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peo- | ples with equity.

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

‡ Gospel Acclamation

Setting 8

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: John 15:9-17

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

[Jesus said:] ⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Forever Friend

Pastor John Maroni

‡ Hymn of the Day Blest Be the Tie That Binds

ELW 656

‡ Apostles Creed

A With the whole church let us confess our faith

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Gathered Community

Each petition ends with:

A God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

Sharing the Peace

‡ Offering Prayer

P Risen One,

C you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen

⦿ Prayer at the Table

P The Lord be with you

C **And also with you**

P Lift up your hearts

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

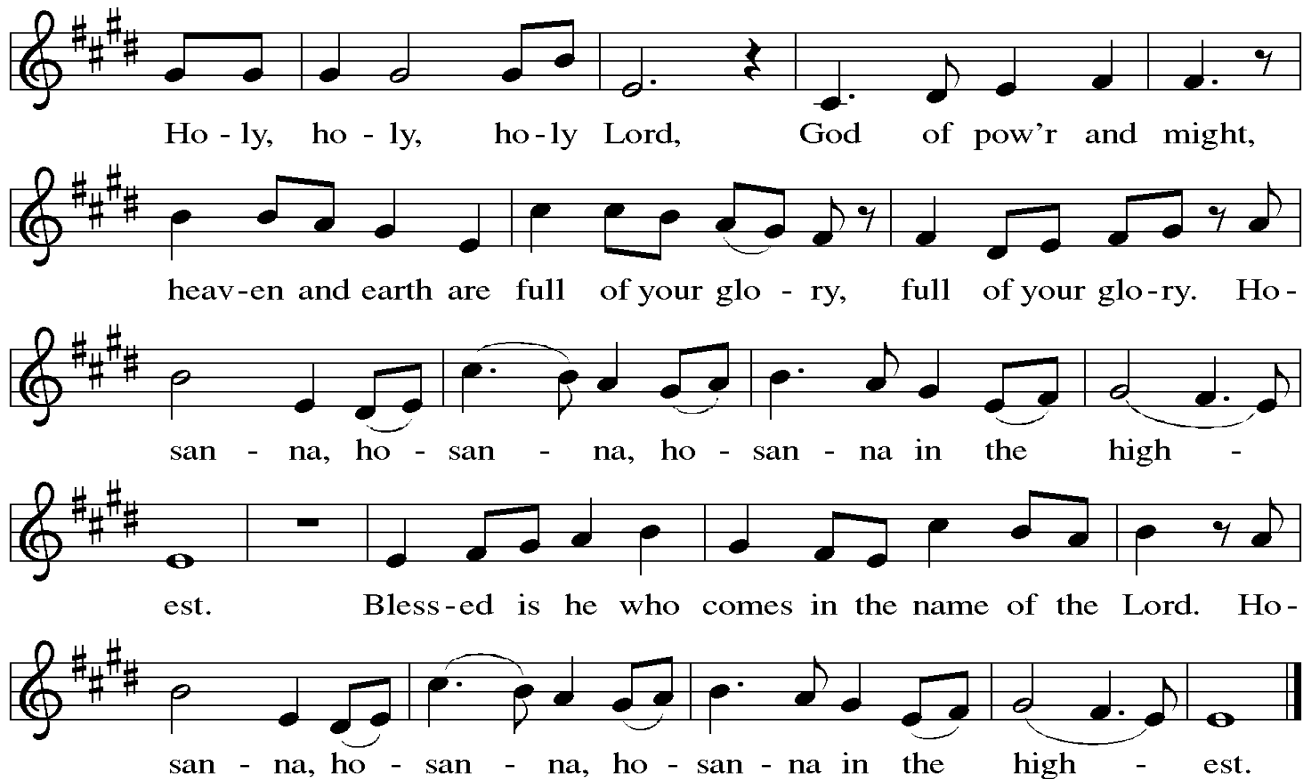
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through the great shepherd of your flock, our Savior Jesus Christ; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

⦿ Holy, Holy, Holy

Setting 8



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P With thanksgiving we remember our Lord Jesus Christ: in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

‡ 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

‡ Lamb of God

Setting 8



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Invitation to Communion

P There is a place for you at the table. You are welcome here.

The Communion Distribution

We welcome all baptized Christians to receive Holy Communion with us. The ushers will guide you to the altar. You may kneel or stand. Let Pastor know you are gluten free to receive a gluten free wafer. Wine is rose/pink colored and grape juice is golden. You may share your offering as you come forward for Holy Communion.

Communion Hymns 477, 595, 473

✠ Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray. Shepherding God,

C **you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen**

✠ Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

✠ Recessional Hymn O God, Who Gives Us Life
(pg.11)

ACS 1086

Dismissal

A Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude Benedictus

Young

Cantors: Sat. Bob Senelly & Sun. Keith LaShier

SHEPHERD OF THE DESERT LUTHERAN CHURCH
11025 N 111th Avenue, Sun City, Arizona 85351

Phone: 623.933.1359

Senior Pastor: Rev. John Maroni

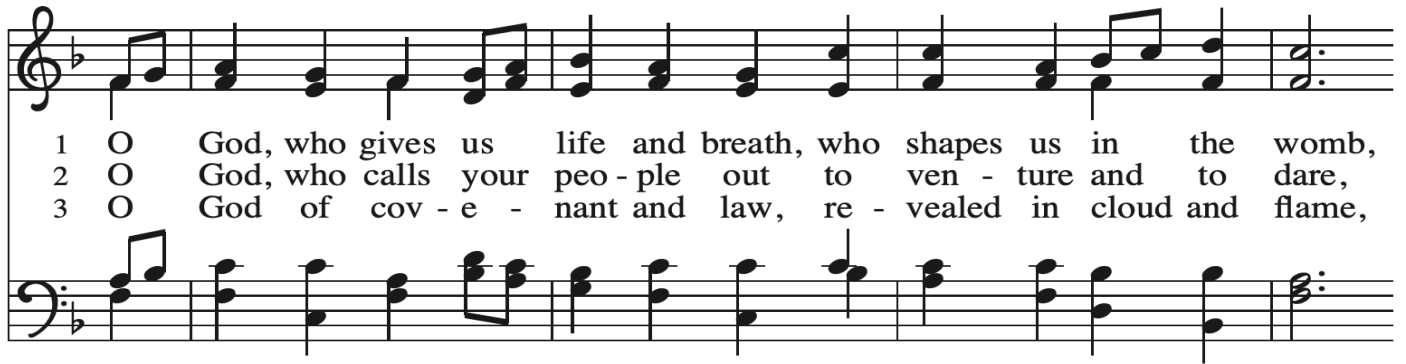
Organist: Debra Senelly

Deacon in Residence: Chuck Hyland

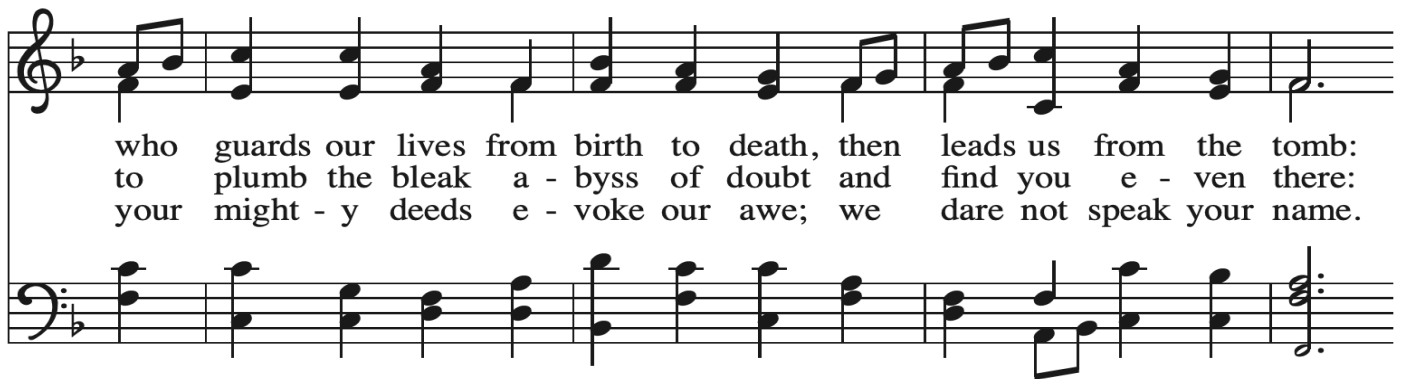
Pastors in Residence: Rev. Art Goetz / Rev. Paul Nordeen / Rev. George Natonick / Rev. Phil Gustafson / Rev. Bruce Ayers

Website: www.sdaz.org Email: Church Office - Kristen Wood Secretary: secretarysod1@gmail.com

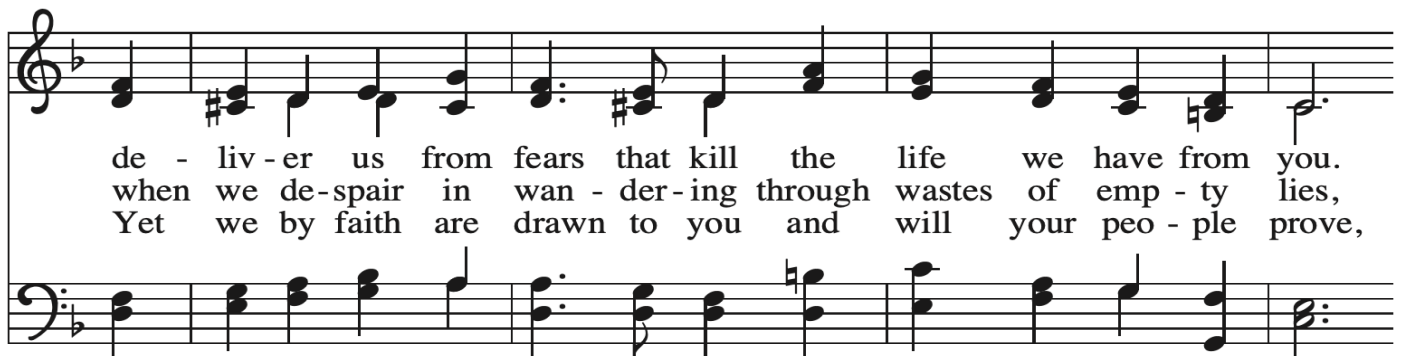
O God, Who Gives Us Life



1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,
3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: NOEL, English melody; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842-1900

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SHEPHERD OF THE DESERT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday Morning Bible Study Monday's at 10:00 a.m. Bring your Bible and a beverage. We are reading the New Testament book of Philemon.

Bad Girls Bible Book Club Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Founders room. The first book we are going to read is Bad Girls of the Bible by Liz Higgs. We will meet Wednesday mornings and discuss the assigned chapter. Contact Nancy Fisher if you would like to come!

Game Night May 24th at 6:00 p.m. We are starting a game night in Founders Room. Bring a game or join in on a game. Snacks provided but bring a beverage of your choice. Contact Nancy Fisher or Jeanne Wallrath if you have any questions. You can sign up in the Narthex.

Free Bingo Night Wednesday May 29th 4p.m.-6p.m. in Walton Hall. Come and enjoy food, prizes, and Fellowship! Don't forget to sign up at the sign up table in the Narthex or call the church office.

Mission of the Month - Shepherd's Columbarium In May, special offerings designated *Mission of the Month* will be used for general maintenance and upkeep of the Columbarium at Shepherd of the Desert.



Cindy Olson
5/06
David Hargreaves
5/08
Rob Thirkell
5/09