

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PSALM 23 SCRIPTURE READING The Message (Pastor Kelli)

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God, for whom our souls thirst and our bodies long.

Listen, listen to me, and our soul will delight in the richest fare.

We have come to hear the Word God has sent.

God's Word will not return empty but will accomplish through us his holy purpose.

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

Then we will go out with joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills will sing; the trees of the field will clap their hands.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (All Together) All-knowing and all-caring God, we gather this day drained by another week. We are like a parched desert, empty and in need of replenishment. Visit us with your presence, saturate us with your Spirit, and bathe us in your streams of living water, that our lives might acknowledge and worship you to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN #814 Morning Has Broken All Verses

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

But, O Lord, we are consumed with wanting more.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

But, O Lord, other pastures seem greener. The waters aren't always still. Our souls still thirst.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

O Lord, we long to be led by you, though we may complain along the path.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

And yet, O God, we do sometimes fear. May we feel your presence, your comfort and your forgiveness anew.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

O God, sometimes we refuse to sit down at your table. Forgive us and help us to see your overflowing mercy.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Forgive us, God, and lead us into your house.

~ written by Rev. Emily Schlaman Larsen, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Winston-Salem, NC

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Minister): Jesus said: Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Take a moment and greet each other

HYMN #209 O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go All Verses

CHOIR ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Isaiah 49:8-12 & Matthew 6:25-33

SERMON "He Makes Me Lie Down...He Restores My Soul"

HYMN #650 He Leadeth Me All Verses

OFFERING The offering can be placed on the offering plates at the back of the church before or during the service at the sound table, or at the front after the service.

DOXOLOGY #517 Verse 3 Offering is brought forward.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: Lord God, heavenly King, we offer these our gifts as a sign of love, devotion, and praise. Through these, as through our praises, we acknowledge that you are our Lord. In your name we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of justice and compassion you are with us always and have promised to sustain us all of our lives. Enlarge our vision of life, and make us bold in our hope, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, let our cry come to you; and with the saints in every age we pray, LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #717 We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky All Verses

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Join us for fellowship and refreshments after the service.

Congregational Annual Meeting - SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Immediately following the worship service.

Please bring some finger foods to share.

Muffins, cookies, loaf, cheese, fruit, etc...

**** SAVE the DATE ****

Friday, April 4 7-8pm

Come out for a fun night of trivia and fellowship.

Light snacks will be provided.

\$5/person with all proceeds
going to the Cancer Care Mission.

OFFICE HOURS for Pastor Kelli

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

10:00am-2:00pm

Please call to let her know you would like to drop by.

For Pastoral Care – please email
pastorkelli.knoxstratford@gmail.com

or leave a message at the office

519-271-0373 Press 3 to reach her office phone.

KNOX CHURCH STRATFORD

THE **LORD** IS MY
shepherd
I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED
PSALM 23

March 16, 2025

Minister: Pastor Kelli Berkner

Music Director: Suzanne Strahan

Treasurer: Shannon Archer

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