

## Sunday, 26 April 2026 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today is the fourth Sunday of the season of Easter. The season of Easter lasts seven weeks from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday on May 24.

<https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theology-worship/worship/christian-year/season-easter>

### Prelude

Composer and organist Harold Darke (1888-1976) was born in London and died in Cambridge. One of his best-known compositions is a choral setting of Christina Rossetti's *In the Bleak Midwinter*. The hymn tune BROTHER JAMES' AIR was composed by Scottish composer James Leith Macbeth Bain (1840-1925) in 1915. It is most often sung to a paraphrase of Psalm 23 from the *Edinburgh Psalter*, 1650.

### Processional Hymn

William Batchelder Bradbury (1816-1868) wrote this tune to accompany the text *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*. Bradbury was also the composer of three other hymns in *Glory to God*: #188 – *Jesus Loves Me*, #353 – *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*, and #442 – *Just as I Am, without One Plea*.

### Hymn of Response/Sermon Hymn

The text of the hymn *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* was written by Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877) in 1868. Baker's friend John Ellerton reported that Baker's dying words were from his famous hymn:

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love He sought me,  
And on His shoulder gently laid,  
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

The text is set to an ancient Irish melody and the hymn tune is named after an Irish saint, ST. COLUMBA, who is credited with having had a main role in the conversion of Scotland to Christianity in the 6th century.

### Offertory Anthem

Bobby McFerrin's (b. 1950) vocal technique has been rightly described as virtuosic. Known for his popular hits such as *Don't Worry, Be Happy*, he has also garnered acclaim as a conductor and composer. He recorded his setting of *The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm* in 1990, singing all four of the vocal lines himself. Written in the style of an Anglican Chant, he dedicated it to his mother, modifying the text to use feminine pronouns.

### Postlude

Craig Seller Lang (1891-1971) was born in New Zealand and made his career in England as an organist, teacher, and composer.