



3 MAY 2020

Please join us for worship on Facebook at 9 am this Sunday morning so we can all worship together.

Thank you to everyone who has commented on our services, please continue to let us know what you think and if you have any suggestions.

Lectionary Readings

This Week May 3

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

Next Week May 10

Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

You will have noticed the newsletter is getting shorter and shorter as we are not meeting together. If you have any news you would like to share with our church family, please email or ring Sue in the office by lunchtime Thursday and we will include it for you.

***I am the Good Shepherd.
As the Father knows me
and I know the Father, in
the same way I know my
sheep and they know me.
And I am willing to die for
them. John 10:14-15***





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The Good Shepherd. John 10:1-10

From the days of Abraham to the present day, sheep have abounded in the Holy Land and people have depended upon sheep for a living throughout the centuries. The Jews in the Bible were the first shepherds, later became farmers but they never entirely abandoned their shepherd life.

The task of the shepherd was mostly a male job and if there were many sons in a family, the task would be passed from the oldest to the youngest son. Sometimes shepherds were paid workers. They were paid to look after another person's sheep.

When the Bible says that a shepherd leads, that is exactly what it means- the shepherds would walk in front and the sheep would follow behind. During the day, the shepherd would lead the sheep out to the pastures, and would lead them back to the pen and lock them in. There would be one entrance to the pen, they called it the door or the gate to the sheep-fold.

Now, just like today, there were thieves and robbers back then. Instead of working hard to raise their own flock, they would try and enter the sheep-fold in another way and steal the sheep of their choice.

John gives us an illustration following the story of the blind man in chapter nine. Jesus came to restore the sight of the blind physically and spiritually yet the pharisees thought they could see and continued to live their sinful lives. Jesus begins the first illustration with a challenge that says if anyone does not enter the fold through the gate or the door, he is a thief and a robber.

This challenging statement is so true- not only of sheep but also of anything else. The characteristics of His sheep is that they know his voice and will not follow any other voice. The shepherd knows them, calls them by name, they hear his voice and they follow him. The thief's target is the sheep and he knows where they are located. His method is to enter through another way and his aim is to steal, kill and destroy.

The pharisees still did not understand Jesus teachings and so Jesus gives them another illustration that He is the gate. It means that whoever goes in to the fold with Jesus is safe and whoever follows Him out of the fold will find green pastures. The gate is a symbol of salvation. They symbolize access, protection and salvation. Grace and Peace.—Hani