

WORSHIP SHEET

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER. YR A

3 MAY 2020

SING

Today we will reflect on the nature of Biblical leadership – the shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep, the king who is servant of all:



Meekness and majesty <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Whre4gfM79g>

SENTENCE: 'I am the good shepherd,' says the Lord.

'The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.' John 10.11

(In this time of isolation, take time before you say the Collect to remember with loving kindness your fellow members of St Paul's at Ashgrove and to collect yourself spiritually with them in this time, when we as followers of Christ need to be as loving and caring as we can.)

COLLECT: God of all power,
you called from death our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep:
send us as shepherds to rescue the lost,
to heal the injured,
and to feed one another with understanding;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS

Acts 2.42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Psalm 23

For our Psalm you might read the words aloud or listen to them sung:

Keith Green's *The Lord is My Shepherd* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wB-SwO9dXpA>

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 **He will make me lie down in green pastures:
and lead me beside still waters.**

- 3 He will refresh my soul:
and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.**
- 5 You spread a table before me in the face of those who trouble me:
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely your goodness and loving-kindness will follow me all the days of my life:
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

A Reading from 1 Peter 2.1-10

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. ²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"

⁸and

"A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John Chapter 10 beginning at verse 1

Jesus said:

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

REFLECTION

When we say "The Lord is my Shepherd" we are making a political statement and we are also declaring an obstinate hope: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-vgnyXtjOw>

SING

Take some time to reflect on the shepherd-like love of God:

O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmk9sfX_QPY

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

We give thanks for: our church family and community, for Margaret, our Wardens and Parish Council and all who help in the mission of the church

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Coronavirus pandemic:

Ever present God,
be with us in our isolation,
be close to us in our distancing,
be healing in our sickness,
be light in our darkness,
be wisdom in our confusion,
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,
that when the doors reopen
we may, with the zeal of Pentecost
inhabit our communities
and speak of your goodness
to an emerging world.
For Jesus' sake. Amen.

(source unknown)

- Parishes seeking new incumbents: Algester, Bardon, Bulimba, Carindale, Gayndah, Goonaneman, Lutwyche, Kingaroy, Mt Gravatt, Noosa, Sunnybank, Tamborine Mountain, Woolloongabba
- Pray for the Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Anglican Communion in Japan): †Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu - Primate of The Nippon Sei Ko Kai & Bishop of Hokkaido
- The Diocese of Armidale: †Rick Lewers; Clergy and People
- The Parish of All Saint's, Brisbane: Vacant; Andrew Gilbert, Bill Pearson, Robert Long
- Finance and Diocesan Services Commission: Sandra Long and staff
- Cannon Hill Anglican College, Cannon Hill: Principal – Gary O'Brien; Chaplain – Vacant; Chair of College Council – Gavin Nicholson; members of College Council; staff & students

For health and healing: Thomas Moore, Beryl and Tom Wakefield, Anthony Bugden, Saloni Paul, Fred Morrison, Romola Squire, Sue Jordan, Gillian, Andrew, Angela Bridges, David and Dianne

At home or nursing home: Jean Ward and Noela Burdett

Prayers of the people

As people of the living God, let us join together in our prayers as we say...

Holy God, breathe your life into the universe,
 Into this world and its people,
Breathe responsible caring, honesty and compassion,

In this time of uncertainty & fear of the unknown,
Breathe right values and good stewardship, generosity,
Peace, forgiveness, vision and hope.
Breathe into us **so that we may live in you.**

Holy God, breathe your life into the Church;
Breathe holiness and deepening faith.
Breathe energy, inspired teaching and fervent praise;
Make us more receptive to your presence
In our lives.
Breathe into us **so that we may live in you.**

Holy God, breathe your life
Into our homes and work places,
Breathe increased patience and understanding,
And the courage to live our faith in you.
When the unknown dangers of this world fill us with fear.
Give us courage to face the months ahead.
Breathe into us **so that we may live in you.**

Holy God, breathe your life into those who suffer;
Especially those throughout the world
Suffering because of COVID-19 virus.
Breathe comfort and wholeness,
Forgiveness and new confidence and hope,
Breathe peace of mind and the knowledge of your love
Breathe into us **so that we may live in you.**

Holy God, breathe your life into the dead and dying;
Breathe courage for the journey
And the realization that you can be trusted.
Breathe life that lasts for ever.
Breathe into us **so that we may live in you.**

Holy God, breathe your life into us now
As we offer you our thanks and praise
For your life laid down out of love for us!

Merciful Father, accept these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
Now and forever, Amen.

SING

Since Jesus is the Good Shepherd, we are safe to follow him:

Christ be my Leader <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpbURbXdndk>

OFFERTORY

It is important that we remember that when we give at the offertory or raise money through Fundraising, we are doing it for coming of God's kingdom. Our giving is a covenant between God and ourselves. Whether it be to maintain a Priest in the Parish or to maintain God's building or most importantly - to give to those who need it. Our giving is something personal between God and ourselves. The same is when we give of our time, and our labour- it is for God and the coming of God's Kingdom. We do not do it for self-aggrandizement or for the promoting of one's ego. We do not do it for the Priest or for someone to like us or to be one of the crowd. We give willingly and unconditionally, because IT IS FOR GOD. We give to the Church because it is the Body of Christ & our giving helps further Christ's mission to bring about his kingdom.

So in these uncertain times, if you wish to continue giving for the work the Body of Christ, please consider Direct Debiting. St Paul's bank details are BSB: 704901 Acc NO: 00004420

BLESSING & SENDING OUT.

God be in my head and in my thinking, (touch head)
God be in my hands and in my doing, (hold out hands)
God be in my heart and in my loving. (hold heart) Amen.

Let me go out in peace to love
And serve the Lord. Amen.

SING

We go into our day under the protection of the Good Shepherd.

I arise Today <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xveVEGOPjJXQ>

Join us at 10:30 for Zoom Morning Tea <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95630300965>

ⁱ Prayers & Blessing resourced from Susan Sayers, "living Stones; The All-age resource for the Common Worship