

Whare Karakia

Home prayers

3 May 2020
Psalm 23
John 10:1-10

We realize life is a bit different for all of us right now but nonetheless we worship a God who stays the same through every age and season, and is our constant guide. So, like the first disciples we are imagining church in a new way and invite you to 'worship through' the following liturgy on your own or with your family this Sunday 3 May at 10am, from your home. Get yourself a cup of tea and join the community in spirit as we worship from our homes, but with one voice and with one heart!



From Learné: Today in the church calendar we find ourselves on Good Shepherd Sunday. We belong to Northwest Anglican CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD. Let's enjoy some time today reflecting on the Good Shepherd whose name we carry as a church....What are the words, phrases, pictures that immediately come to mind when you hear the words shepherd and sheep.

Opening Prayer

Good Shepherd of the sheep by whom we the lost are sought and guided into the fold; feed us and we shall be satisfied, heal us and we shall be whole. In this ongoing season of walking within the shadow of levels and bubbles thank you that you walk with us giving strength and peace. In the mighty name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Confession

God of healing,
God of wholeness,
We offer to you this day, our sins, our failings, our brokenness.

Let us take a moment to bring to mind those things that we have said and done that have separated us from God.

Absolution

May the God of love bring us back to himself,
Forgive us our sins,
And assure us of his eternal love
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song

The Lord's My Shepherd
Stuart Townend

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

Scriptures

Psalm 23
John 10:1-10

If you are in need of support (prayer or otherwise) please contact us:
Rev. Learné 021 984 002 or office@northwestanglican.org.nz



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Northwest Anglican

Reflection: From Dan

In reflection of our present moment with the coronavirus pandemic, the image of a famine of sorts comes to mind. We are all suffering from a loss or lack of something that we could not anticipate. For the majority of us it isn't a literal famine but a famine of not knowing what the next weeks and months will look like for our families, jobs, income, society, a famine of not being with our families, of being somewhat out of control of our schedules and activities, a famine of disconnection. The pandemic has forced us to consider who are we in these next months, and who are we 'called' to be. It has perhaps made us more aware of our faith and like many significant moments in history has actually been the catalyst to a return to faith, and connection with God, to let the desires of God fan into flame in our hearts and minds. I believe that this might be such an invitation for us as the church to do so also and I therefore encourage us to re-frame this famine into that of a fast. An intentional season, simplifying our lives, of going without in order to deepen and renew our connection with God. Today the Psalmist writes "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall lack nothing." Knowing that God is our shepherd, we can know that although a fast can be challenging we are always looked after and tended to by the shepherd. In the coming week think about some attitudes you may have had in this season that are negative or look at the 'lack' or restriction in lockdown – can you reframe in such a way that allows God into them? Even as the Psalmist said "as I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil" we also can proclaim that in a season of darkness we are comforted, protected and guided by our shepherd, our living God, the resurrected Jesus.

Intercessions

In our prayers today, we put all our thoughts and worries and hopes into the hands of God. You may like to hold your own hands in front of you as you pray. Create your own prayers for each of the headings below:



The World



The Church



Communities



Sickness



Sorry God

Questions to ponder

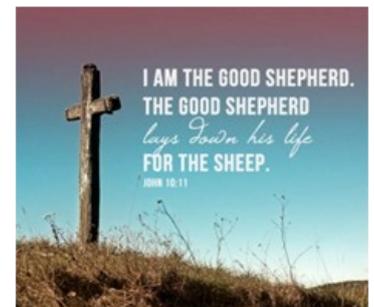
- In what ways has your connection with the Good Shepherd deepened in this season?
- Make a list of things that have challenged you in this past season, and see how you can reframe them into something positive.

Response Activity

List down the ways you might like to connect again with other people in the flock when we are able to move out of our bubbles. Specifically name the people and activity as a hope/dream to fulfil.

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for Your unwavering support you give as The Good Shepherd. And I thank You for those who act as Your instruments of this deep love and commitment. Help me to fulfil my role in also caring for the people You have placed in my life. To the glory of your name I pray, Amen.



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