

Whare Karakia

Home prayers

7 November 2021

Psalm 23



THE LORD IS MY
shepherd
I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED

Opening Prayer

We come this morning mindful of who it is that we come to worship. Christ is the good Shepherd, who knows and cares for every one of the sheep in different folds. In Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile;

in Christ there is no discrimination of gender, class or race. In Christ the poor are blessed, the simple receive truth hidden from the wise. Thank you Lord.

Confession

In God there is forgiveness. God we sometimes take our eyes off you. Sometimes we forget Lord Jesus that you are the Good Shepherd. We repent and ask for your mercy.

Absolution

God forgives you, forgive others, forgive yourself. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Song

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie; in pastures green He leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again and me to walk doth make within the paths of righteousness, e'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, thou I walk through death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill; for Thou art with me and Thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnishèd In presence of my foes; my head Thou dost with oil anoint and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me; and in God's house for evermore my dwelling place shall be.

If you are in need of support (prayer or



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Northwest Anglican

Reflection: From Val

I wonder if you can say, like David, "I have all that I need". That is, right at this moment I am content and at ease with everything around me and at peace within. Not only that, these verses have a future tense - "I will always have everything that I need" so that there is no fear of anything to come either. In these strange times that we are living in, it can be easy to slip into complaint, or anxiety because things aren't working out how we want or expect them to. Certainly there are more challenges than usual! David had many times of crisis and struggle, yet he came to know that nothing should disturb his inner being because the Great Shepherd was leading, providing, and caring for him. But, for those times when there was upheaval or struggle, he says the Lord "restores my soul". I like to see old things restored, especially old houses. I'm amazed by the incredible change, where something broken and dilapidated becomes beautiful and useful again. This is the work that the Spirit of God does within us, to refresh, renew, and revive our souls. As we are led into quiet, restful spaces, our Lord brings me 'back to myself', and gives new strength for the next part of the journey. I've been considering how much of a paradox life is, things that seem opposite or contradictory somehow sit together. The key word is 'AND' not 'or'. Here are some that David was reflecting on - Youth AND Age; Helplessness AND Security; Want AND Provision; Distress AND Peace. These themes from Psalm 23 are our themes too. Praise God that Jesus is our Good Shepherd, present now and always as our constant companion, guide and restorer.

Questions

- What other paradoxes are there in Psalm 23? Make a list of the paradoxes in your life just now.
- Imagine your soul as being like your inner house with many rooms. What needs restoring? Offer this room to the Lord Jesus for refreshment.
- Who could you share some encouraging words with today?

Intercessions

Today is the International Day of Prayer with the Persecuted Church and we focus our prayers in that direction. Places like Afghanistan, Myanmar, Iran, Iraq, Syria.

Pray With Secret Believers

- That God will protect those who follow Jesus where it's most dangerous.
- For wisdom and maturity over those leading underground churches.
- That they will have and take opportunities to share Jesus.

Pray With Children Of The Persecuted Church

- That they will know of God's great love for them.
- That persecution would not discourage them from following Jesus.
- That God will equip parents with wisdom to raise faithful children.

Pray With Women Of The Persecuted Church

- That those who have experienced trauma will feel God's peace.
- That those whose faith is secret from their families will persevere.
- For those living in places where their gender and faith leave them doubly vulnerable.

Closing Prayer

We praise you O God, for revealing your Son Jesus Christ to us as the Good Shepherd. We ask that what we do, how we live, and the way we love, may increasingly become a worthy response to that revelation. Amen