



The Good Shepherd, Jesus MAFI Project

A Sheep's Life
Good Shepherd Sunday
Fifth Sunday of Eastertide
May 15, 2022

MEDITATION

*"People, like sheep, tend to follow a leader—
occasionally in the right direction."*

—Alexander Chase

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

P: And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **All: And also with you.**

PRELUDE

"Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Michael Wilson

TUNE: BRADBURY by William Bradbury

CALL TO WORSHIP

Melessa Fox, Deacon

L: Come! Let us worship and praise God.

All: The Lord is our shepherd, our guardian and our guide.

L: Celebrate the many ways in which God cares for our lives.

All: Green pastures and silent still waters beckon us and comfort us.

L: Even though difficulties happen in our lives, still God is with us.

**All: Even when it seems that the world has nothing to offer but suffering and pain,
God surrounds us with God's love and bounty.**

L: Surely God's mercy accompanies us on our journey.

All: And we will dwell in God's house forever. AMEN.

***SONG FOR EASTERTIDE**

"This is the Day"

Black 84

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Melessa Fox, Deacon

L: Anger, hatred, anguish blare at us from the newspapers, media. The shouts of hurt and pain harden our hearts, merciful God. We cannot bear the hurts, so we turn away.

We hide and want the hurt to disappear. When we hear the words of the Psalmist singing about the green pastures, still waters, our souls long for this place of peace. We think that it can be found outside ourselves, yet this is a reminder of the peace and hope that your love offers us from within. We know that we will have struggles and hard times, but help us, Lord, to place our lives in your care, to trust in your comfort and guidance. **All: Forgive our stubborn resistance to your compassionate love. Heal us again and place us on the right path. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rev. Christina Williams

Do not fear! Place your trust in God, for God will lead you, comfort you, and protect you. You are not alone to face all the difficulties of life. God is with you and will lift you up. Rejoice, for you belong to God.

***OPENING HYMN**

“All My Hope on God is Founded”

Black 408

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING – Psalm 23

Melessa Fox, Deacon

L: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

All: He makes me lie down in green pastures.

L: He leads me beside still waters.

All: He restores my soul.

L: He leads me in paths of righteousness

All: for his name's sake.

L: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

All: I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

L: your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

All: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

L: you anoint my head with oil;

All: my cup overflows.

L: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

All: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

NEW TESTAMENT READING – John 10:22-30

Rev. Christina Williams

L: The Word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

“A Sheep's Life”

Rev. Christina Williams

***RESPONSIVE HYMN**

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Black 252

PASTORAL PRAYER – JOY & CONCERNS

After the Pastoral Prayer you are invited to share your joys and concerns. When names are spoken out loud, you are invited to respond, “O Lord, hear our prayers.”

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day of our daily bread, and forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"It Is Well With My Soul"
Soloist: Alan King

Philip Bliss

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love had done:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One Amen.

***UNISON OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Shepherd God, all your works and all that you have done for us testify to your love. You gave everything to bring us the promise of eternal life. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may all that we do and all that we are testify to your amazing care and compassion. In gratitude and love we offer ourselves to you. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“I’m So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me”

Black 474

***BENEDICTION**

May the Great Shepherd gather you in his arms.

May the Great Shepherd carry you close to his heart and watch over you always.

May the Great Shepherd guide you in paths of righteousness, protect you in the valleys of life and lead you in the way everlasting, now and forever, Amen.

POSTLUDE

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Jason W. King

TUNE: ST. COLUMBA Trad. Irish Melody

**Stand in body or spirit as you are able.*

MINISTERING TO US TODAY

Melessa Fox, Deacon, and Rev. Christina Williams will be leading us in worship today.

We are grateful to Babette Bach, Sarah Bach, and Alan King for providing the music, and to Dennis Fox our technical staff for the day. Thank you for ministering to us in these ways.

Music covered under One License # A-728849.



**The altar flowers today are given in loving memory
of Don from the Packard family.**