**SUNDAY WORSHIP SHEET:**

**21st MARCH 2021 10.30am**

**5th SUNDAY of LENT: The Good Shepherd**

**(Psalm 23)**

**

*READ THIS SECTION BEFORE WORSHIP BEGINS:*

*Welcome to our time of worshipping together, but in different places – all at home (either with or without Facebook live streaming).*

*We suggest that you have a Bible by your side to use.*

*………………..*

*WELCOME & INTRODUCTION:*

* *Let us take this moment to stop whatever else we are doing and thinking about. This is God’s time. Sit comfortably. Picture Jesus with you, sitting alongside you and be still with Him. Know He truly loves and cares for you and He can be trusted.*
* *Now picture our church family all joining you to worship God in this moment in their own homes. Know that we are worshipping together, even though we can’t see each other.*
* *Remember that we are one in the Lord.*
* *If you aren’t following the service on FB, we suggest that, if you are alone, you say the prayers and readings aloud. If you are with others, choose someone to lead and the rest of you join in with the words in bold. On FB, simply join in the words in bold.*

*………………….*

***THE GREETING***

Come, let us worship and bow down.
**Let us kneel before our maker.**
Know that the Lord alone is God.
**God made us, not we ourselves.**
We are the people God tends.
**We are the flock God shepherds.**

The Lord be with you.
**And also with you.**

***THE OPENING PRAYER***

**Shepherding God,
we are awed to be in your presence
realising that you loved us so much
you sacrificed a spotless lamb,
your son, Jesus Christ,
in order that we might be redeemed.
Accept now our imperfect worship
made perfect through our union with Christ
in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

*We keep a time of silence, in the presence of the Lord.*

**Call to Worship** (inspired by Psalm 23)

In the darkest valley,
**at the banquet table;**in the hard work of life,
**at the moments of ease;**in our day-to-day reality,
**at times set aside–**like this time, now–
**for worship, for listening, for paying attention;**with every step we take:
**goodness and mercy follow us;
our cups overflow.**

*We sing: The Lord’s my shepherd I’ll not want (traditional)*

***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY***

**Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.**

*On Facebook, Naomi now reads a story to ‘set the scene.’*

***THE BIBLE READINGS*** *– now read John 10:11-18 and Psalm 23 or listen to them read on Facebook.*

***THE SERMON –*** *Lynne. If you are not participating via Facebook, please now read the enclosed sheet which gives the words of the sermon for today. If you ARE participating via Facebook, please just watch and listen to Lynne – and then after the service go to the sheet with the ‘script’ of the sermon included with the e-mailing.*

**THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

In spite of God’s love for us and gift of love to us, we often act in destructive and hateful ways. We close our hearts to God and disobey God’s law. Together let us confess our sin.

**Gentle Shepherd, You guide us in right paths,**

**You lead us in the ways of righteousness, but we have allowed our anger, our rage, our greed, and at times even hate, to direct our paths.**

**We have overreacted, we have taken more than our share, we have despised others that seem to have it all.**

**Forgive us, God, for not following Your ways.**

**Forgive us for not remembering that we are Your sheep, and You are our Shepherd.**

**Forgive us when we have not listened for Your voice and instead have acted in the ways of the world.**

**Guide us back to Your path, to loving You and loving our neighbours.**

**Help us to unclench our fists and lend out our hands in hope and healing, forgiveness and love. In the name of Christ our Shepherd we pray. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS***

Even in the darkest valley,
though death’s shadow may threaten us,
we need not fear, for the Lord is with us.
God will comfort and shelter us.
No harm will come to us.
No one can snatch us out of the Lord’s hand. God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

*We sing:Jesus be the centre*

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH –***

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**I believe in God the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**The holy catholic Church,**

**The communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

***THE  PRAYERS –*** *On Facebook, Naomi will now lead our prayers.*

Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd of your people.

Hear the cry of your flock as we pray,

“Good Shepherd,**Receive our prayer.”**

Good Shepherd, you call us to follow where you lead.

Give us ears to hear and know your voice.

And give us the courage and strength

to lay down our lives for one another,

as even you laid down your life for us.

*Silence*

Good Shepherd, **Receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd,

gather to yourself the people of the world

so there will be one flock under your reign.

Forgive us for our hatred and divisions.

*Silence*

Good Shepherd, **Receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd,

you have blessed us with green pastures and still waters— places in your world where we find rest

and renewal.

We thank you for the beauty of the earth.

*Silence*

Good Shepherd, **Receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd,

even when wolves attack,

you never leave your loved ones;

even in the valley of the shadow of death,

you are present.

Be with all victims of violence.

Comfort them in their distress.

*Silence*

Good Shepherd, **Receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd,

you love us so much that you call us each by name:

We pray for the healing of our brothers and sisters in your name.

*Silence*

Good Shepherd, **Receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, you are our salvation.

Grant all who have died a dwelling place in your house forever.

*Silence*

Good Shepherd, **Receive our prayer.**

**Loving Shepherd, you know our names;
you care for us.
When we face darkness and death, walk beside us.
When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence.
When we are fearful, feed us at your table.
May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy
all the days of our lives. Amen.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Let us pray together with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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 our daily bread.**

**And forgive us as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**the power and the glory**

**for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

***THE CHURCH PRAYER***

**To You God be the glory,**

**great things You have done.**

**So loved You the world that You gave us Your Son,**

**Who Yielded His life an atonement for sin,**

**And opened the life gates that we all might go in.**

**We praise You Lord, we praise You, Lord,**

**We want the whole earth to hear Your voice.**

**We praise You Lord, we praise You, Lord,**

**We, Your people, rejoice.**

**We come to You, Father, through Jesus the Son,**

**we give You the glory,**

**For great things You have done. Amen**

*We sing: Good Shepherd you know us*

***THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL***

May the grace of God,

freely given through Christ, our Lord,

and sufficient for all our needs,

and may the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

who testifies with our spirit

that we are God’s children,

guide and sustain us this day

and forever. **Amen.**

**WORSHIP SONGS FOR USE AT THE 10.30am SERVICE**

**THE LORD’S MY SHEPHERD (23rd Psalm)**

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, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill:
For thou art with me, and thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnishéd
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.

**JESUS BE THE CENTRE**

Jesus, be the centre

Be my source, be my light, Jesus.

Jesus, be the centre

Be my hope, be my song, Jesus.

*Be the fire in my heart*

*Be the wind in my sails*

*Be the reason that I live*

*Jesus, Jesus.*

Jesus, be my vision

Be my path, be my guide, Jesus.

*Be the fire in my heart*

*Be the wind in my sails*

*Be the reason that I live*

*Jesus, Jesus.*

Jesus, be the centre

Be my source, be my light, Jesus.

**GOOD SHEPHERD YOU KNOW US**

Good Shepherd, you know us,

you call us by name,

you lead us; we gladly

acknowledge your claim.

Your voice has compelled us;

we come at your call,

and none you have chosen will finally fall.

Good Shepherd, you warn us

of robbers and thieves;

the hireling, the wolf,

who destroys and deceives;

all praise for your promise

on which we can stand,

that no-one can snatch us

from out of your hand.

Good Shepherd, you lay down

your life for the sheep;

your love is not fickle,

your gift is not cheap.

You spend your life freely,

you take it again;

you died, so we live –

we are healed by your pain.

At one with the Father,

you made yourself known:

'I am the Good Shepherd',

at one with your own.

You loved us before we had

heeded or heard;

by grace we respond to

your life-giving word.

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Sung to the tune of *Immortal, Invisible God only wise*

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