

# **QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH**

## **MIDWEEK SERVICES**

### **MAY 2022 – Week 2**

We are still in the Easter season and our theme today is The Good Shepherd. The material I produce is only a guide. If you are the leader then feel free to miss out a lesson or a reflection or to substitute something of your own. This material is for 12<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Week 2 – I am the Good Shepherd**

#### **Leader:**

You are indeed our shepherd, so we trust you to lead us through the green pastures of life, and through its dark valleys, bringing us safely home at the last.

#### **Opening Responses**

Children of God

**THIS IS WHAT WE ARE**

People of God

**THIS IS WHO WE ARE**

Give thanks to God, for God is good,

**THE LOVE OF GOD IS NOW AND FOREVER**

**Read:** 1 John 3 verses 1 – 3

**Hymn or song:** You might want to read together any of the Easter hymns or Hymn 462 “The King of love my Shepherd is” You could read that instead of the Psalm.

**Read:** Psalm 23

### **Prayer**

Let us praise the Lord who is a great God – the God who brought us to birth, and who cares for us as a shepherd cares for the sheep.

Let us praise the lord whose Son, Jesus Christ, is the Good Shepherd who came to rescue us and lead us in to the warmth of the sun.

Let us praise the Lord who breathes the Holy Spirit upon us to convince us deep in our being that the Lord is God and we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Let us praise the Lord, the source and word and breath of life, the one true shepherd of the sheep.

As we confess our sins to God

### **LET US RETURN TO GOD**

We confess we have found it hard when we are faced with difficulties and challenges in life;

We confess we have been too concerned for our own rights and impatient with the needs of others;

We confess we have criticised and dealt out blame;

We confess we have failed to give thanks for the blessings we have in our lives;

Loving God, forgive us.

**LOVING SHEPHERD, GUIDE US IN YOUR WAY OF  
COMPASSION, EVEN WHEN THAT DEMANDS MUCH OF  
US.**

**LET US RETURN TO THE ONE WHO IS SHEPHERD AND  
WHO LOVES AND PROTECTS US .**

And now hear us as we pray further in the words Jesus  
taught his disciples saying:

**OUR FATHER**

**Read:** John 10 verses 1 - 16

### **Reflection**

Reflect for no more than 5 minutes. You might reflect  
on what it means to be a shepherd, or what Jesus  
meant when he described himself as a gate. Or you  
might reflect on what it means to be called “children of  
God.” You could reflect on what it means to give  
pastoral care within a Church setting. These are only  
suggestions – lots of other ideas may come to mind.  
This part of the service might involve music or  
something else visual; it might involve silence.

You might also like to reflect on this short meditation. It  
comes from a book called “Welcoming each Wonder”  
by Rev. Tom Gordon. He was a Parish Minister in  
Edinburgh and then Chaplain at the Marie Curie  
Hospice:

**One, two...**

One, two, three...

All safe! Good! No bother there, then

Fourteen, fifteen, sixteen ...

And one more over there ...

Excellent! It's looking good!

Thirty-seven, thirty-eight, thirty-nine ...

Like ducks in a row – except they are fleecy ones.

I hope I don't fall asleep.

Sixty-nine, seventy, seventy-one ...

Getting there! Not too bad.

No problems thus far.

Ninety-two, ninety-three ...

Nearly done!

Ninety-four, ninety-five ...

Yes, OK.

Ninety-six, ninety-seven ...

Close ...

Ninety-eight ...

Yes ...

Ninety-nine ...

Ninety-nine ...

Good!

And that makes one hun ...  
Oh, for goodness sake!  
Where's the last one?  
It was all going so well.  
Ninety-nine, safe and sound ...  
So where are you, you little toe-rag?

Come on!  
Where've you gone, eh?

Ninety-nine ...  
Safe and sound!  
Ninety-nine ...ONE HUNDRED ...  
Here I come, ready or not ...

### **Prayer**

This is a time for prayers for the world, for the communities in which we live; for the Church and those who minister here in any capacity; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

### **CLOSING RESPONSES**

Holy and just

**MAKE US LIKE JESUS**

Ready to take risks

**MAKE US LIKE JESUS**

Willing to weep

**MAKE US LIKE JESUS**

Aware that we're loved

**MAKE US LIKE JESUS**

When people meet us

**MAY THEY MEET GOD IN US**

So be it, Holy Spirit

**AMEN.**

This material has been adapted from “Fire and Bread”  
by Ruth Burgess, a Wild Goose publication. It has been  
added to by me!