

QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

MIDWEEK SERVICES

MAY

We are still in the Easter season and our theme today is The Good Shepherd, recognising that the Sunday following is Good Shepherd Sunday. This material is for 7th May.

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.

Week 1 – 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: singing is a bit challenging by zoom! 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 or as well as.

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 5 – 7 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, and, in particular, the challenges of doing so at this time. These are only suggestions – lots of other ideas may come to mind.

This part of the service might involve music or a short drama; it might involve the use of “props” 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 who are sick at this time, whether with coronavirus or other illnesses; for all health workers and carers; for those whose income is uncertain;** 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!