

**THIS IS AVAILABLE AS A VIDEO [HERE](#)**

**PART 1 – OPENING PRAYERS**

**GREETING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Christ is risen, alleluia

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE**

‘I am the good shepherd,’ says the Lord. ‘The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.’

John 10.11

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

*Let us pray*

**Almighty God,**

**to whom all hearts are open,**

**all desires known,**

**and from whom no secrets are hidden:**

**cleanse the thoughts of our hearts**

**by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,**

**that we may perfectly love you,**

**and worthily magnify your holy name,**

**through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God,**

**our maker and our judge,**

**we have sinned against you**

**in thought, word, and deed,**

**and in what we have failed to do:**

**we have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;**

**we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.**

**Father, forgive us.**

**Strengthen us to love and obey you**

**in newness of life;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,

who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:

pardon you and set you free from all your sins,

strengthen you in all goodness

and keep you in eternal life,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all power,  
you called from death our Lord Jesus,  
the great shepherd of the sheep:  
send us as shepherds to rescue the lost,  
to heal the injured,  
and to feed one another with understanding;  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## PAUSE VIDEO

**PART 2** CHILDREN'S STORY AND A SHORT VIDEO FOR OLDER CHILDREN AND ADULTS BY Sam White  
AND DOWNLOADABLE MATERIAL [HERE](#)

**PART 3** LOOK UP AND READ THROUGH THE READINGS, LISTEN TO THE SERMON PODCAST (READ  
ALONG IF YOU WISH) AND PRAY THE INTERCESSIONS.

## READINGS

Psalm 23  
Gospel: John 10:1-10

**SERMON by Rev Jennie Savage**  
**Available as an audio download**

*Let us pray  
Through the written word,  
and the spoken word,  
may we know your Living Word  
Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen*

***A secure environment***

There was this young couple who were the proud parents of a one year old baby boy. If you were to visit their home, upon entering you would notice that everything about this house was dedicated to protecting their baby:

There were plastic plugs in the electrical outlets to keep the baby from seeing what happens should he place his little fingers in them.

Upon opening the pantry door, a small plastic “baby gate” was nailed into place, keeping the baby from getting to items that might be harmful.

Small hooks were placed on the cabinet doors to keep the baby from being able to open them and reach more harmful things.

The car had a special baby seat to buckle him in and prevent his moving about.

The windows could not be rolled down nor the back car doors opened as they were in “child proof” mode.

It seem that everywhere you looked and everything about their lives was dedicated, not only to protecting the baby from others, but from protecting the baby from himself.

This is very good for the baby, but he cannot stay in an environment like that forever!

We would consider such an environment for a growing child, let alone an adult, unhealthy, even toxic.

What was once a comfort, becomes an addiction, a prison from which one needs to be broken free.

It makes for an interesting examination of what we regard as our comforts or securities to see, if in fact, they have become our neuroses.

***Imprisoned***

The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is a comforting and encouraging one.

When I was a child,

I had this picture of Jesus holding up and smiling at a little lamb in his arms.

The picture spoke volumes to me of the friendship and the love of God, experienced through Jesus.

When we think of Jesus the Good Shepherd,

it is quite likely we fuse together in our minds this reading from John’s gospel, with the parable from the synoptic gospels known as *The Lost Sheep*.

In the parable, the shepherd goes out looking for a lost sheep and brings it safely home.

And as we read this chapter in John, we could be imagining the Good Shepherd bringing the sheep safely into the corral,

but if we do, we’ve got it back to front!

First of all, we have to work out who or what Jesus is, for he is either having an identity crisis or mixing his metaphors.

Jesus-the-shepherd enters Jesus-the-gate because Jesus-who might also be -the-gatekeeper opens it for Jesus-the-shepherd...

so that he can get to the sheep!

(Jesus is also called the Lamb of God at the start of the gospel, but we should probably leave that there!)

This image is not about the sheep being brought safely into the corral.  
It is not they who enter the gate – Jesus enters the gate.  
The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice.  
He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out: *out*, not *in*.  
Not into the enclosure – not into the pen – not into the fenced in area.  
Jesus enters and leads them out.

Which, of course, begs the question:  
if Jesus is leading the sheep out, where is he leading them out from?  
And secondly, perhaps more importantly, where is he leading them to?

First of all, reading this text carefully, we become aware that the enclosure is not actually a safe place!  
Thieves and bandits can get in by other ways apart from the gate.  
Ways that are illicit, deceitful, and threatening.  
They come in to steal, kill and destroy.  
The sheep do not know their voices, yet they are vulnerable and entrapped.  
They are imprisoned.  
The sheep need to be saved from this enclosure.

Jesus breaks the sheep out of the pen.  
In my reading, I have been told that the Greek text of John 10 literally reads: *he throws us out*.  
It suggests that many of the sheep would rather stay there, perhaps knowing no better.

This points us back to one of the great stories of the Bible which we looked at during Lent,  
the Exodus.  
A story of salvation.  
An image of the human problem of bondage and slavery.  
The story may have a historical figure such as the Pharaoh, but the Pharaoh is also a metaphor for  
what holds us in bondage,  
both internally and externally.

The human problem was that of the Israelites living in Egypt, the land of bondage.  
Life there was marked by hard labour.  
It was a life of bitter herbs and meagre rations; you get enough to live on, but that is all.  
It is a life of powerlessness and victimisation.

The solution is liberation, a way out, an exodus.  
Many of the people were terrified at the thought of going, even afterwards some still hankered for  
the security, warped as it was,  
they had experienced as slaves.

It is not enough to just break the prisoners free, but to lead them onto a better life.  
God led the Israelites by the pillar of cloud or fire, here in this image the sheep follow the shepherd  
whose voice they recognize as genuine and trustworthy.  
The Israelites were led to the promised land, a land of milk and honey.  
The sheep are led out to find pasture.  
The shepherd comes that they may find life and have it abundantly.  
But what is life abundant?

### ***Abundant, but not enough***

Is abundant life about having enough money, enough food, enough necessities?  
But what is enough?  
Being a capitalist society, we never have enough.  
Enough for some means a lack for others.

Biblically speaking, abundant life means life for all.  
That the resources of life are spread among all, not just family, not just friends,  
but inclusive of the stranger, the foreigner and those on the margins.

Perhaps this whole image shows us what sheep we are.  
Sheep who are trapped in their own enclosure, not even knowing there is a gate,  
let alone another way of being out there.

Jesus is the gate, the way out; and Jesus is the shepherd, the one who can lead us out.  
This little allegory is actually an account of the meaning of the Incarnation:  
Jesus enters the world to lead us out into the kingdom of God.

Later in the reading, Jesus talks about 'other sheep', not of this fold,  
but who also must be brought along.  
Then there will be one flock, one shepherd.  
The imagery becomes global.

So, what is beyond the gate of our individual lives, of our life as a community?  
Where might Jesus be leading us outside of our enclosures?

I think this may be a challenge when we emerge from this time of forced isolation.  
The fear of COVID-19 and any future viruses like it, may only strengthen a resolve to batten down  
the hatch of our self-enclosures.  
I pray against any fears that show themselves in prejudice against another, selfish concern and, or,  
paranoia.

While it has been the right thing to do, to self-isolate in this period of time, let us pray toward the  
time when these barriers can be dismantled in more ways than one.

*Let us pray,*

*Lord Jesus our Shepherd,  
We pray to hear your voice clearly, to follow you where you lead us, and to trust you all the days of our lives.  
We pray to be aware of all those you call across the world, not just those within our enclosure.  
We pray to understand the meaning of abundant life that you bring for all, not just a few.  
Lord Jesus, our Shepherd, to you we give our thanks and praise. **Amen.***

## INTERCESSIONS – by John Tatman

Lord God you know our thoughts, and what is in our hearts, before we speak, and still we hear your voice calling us to prayer for the world and its people who you love so dearly.

Most merciful God; You know in these uncertain times of the coronaviris pandemic, how it has destroyed the economies of rich and poor nations alike. How there are many more people here, and around the world, who are experiencing poverty, some for the first time. Some are in desperate need of shelter, food and medical attention. We bring their needs before you, and look to you in hope and trust, for their supply. Father; bring forth our compassion for the suffering, bless those who are working for relief, and move us to share our resources with love and compassion.

Good Shepherd in your mercy. **Let us hear your voice.**

Heavenly Father, We pray for your church, for Philip our Archbishop, Paul our Bishop, Jennie our Priest, and all who support your ministry here and around the world.

Lord you know we cannot meet together, yet we are your people, your family, bound together, with your love. Keep us united as brothers, sisters, children together, one family in fellowship with you. May this be a transforming time for your Church, a time for growing, a time for strengthening, a time for loving, quality time drawing closer to you; worshiping alone, listening for your voice, and in your Spirit still together.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

We give thanks, for our community, our families, our friends and all emergency workers. We pray for those who have lost employment, for the children unable to attend school, for the aged care people in lock down, and for all who struggle with isolation. There are occasions when we all feel the loss of family, and human contact, and the journey through each day becomes difficult, we wonder how much further there is to go. Good Shepherd, in these times, lead us all, to the security of your good pastures, let us hear your gentle voice, encouraging us, to seek you, and rest once more in your embrace.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Father of all mercies, we pray for those in need, especially those known to us, who we name silently in our hearts. We bring before you the sick in body or mind, that through your healing power they may be made whole; for the disabled and the poor in spirit, that they may have faith and support to overcome; for the elderly and infirm, that they may renew their strength as they rest on your love; and for the dying that they may know your peace now and at the last.

Lord in your mercy. **Let us hear your voice.**

We praise you, Lord God for your faithful servants of every age; and we give thanks for the life and work of Geoffrey Wood, who passed into your care in 2017. Lord keep alive in us the memory of those dear to ourselves, who you have called out of this world. Grant that every remembrance which turns our hearts from things seen, to things unseen, will lead us upwards to you, until we also come, to the eternal rest which you have prepared for all your flock.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory, are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

## RESUME VIDEO FOR PART 4 – VIDEO OF HOLY COMMUNION

### GREETING OF PEACE [PRIEST]

Christ is risen. Alleluia!  
The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.  
Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

### HOLY COMMUNION

*O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Thanksgiving, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son, we offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though we are dispersed from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Salvation we pray that you will unite us with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us.*

The Lord be with you,  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts;  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God,  
for you spread a banquet of abundant life before us  
and invite us to eat and drink in celebration.

When we wandered away like lost sheep,  
stumbling through death's dark valley,  
you sent us your child, Jesus Christ,  
who endured unjust abuse and suffering  
and returned only mercy and life.

Calling us to attend to his voice and return to you, he bore our sins in his body on the cross, and when you raised him he freed us to follow him, — our shepherd and the guardian of our souls — along sure paths to life in abundance.

Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying,

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

And now we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine; may we who receive them, as Jesus said, share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread and gave you thanks.  
He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said, 'Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup and gave you thanks. He shared the cup with them and said, 'This is my blood poured out so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me.'

**Christ has died,  
Christ has risen,  
Christ will come again.**

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ and to remember all he has done for us: Fill us with your Spirit that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say, working for justice and bringing your peace to this world that you have made. Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours forever and ever. Amen**

#### **THE BREAKING AND SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE**

As this broken bread was once many grains,  
which have been gathered together and made one bread:  
**so may your Church be gathered  
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

#### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Eternal God, giver of life,  
in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord.  
May we who celebrate this holy feast  
walk in his risen light  
and bring new life to all creation.

**Living God,  
make us apostles of the risen Christ.  
Give us joyful hearts, words of hope,  
and grace to recognize the Lord Jesus when he meets us,  
wherever we are on the road.**

#### **BLESSING**

Go now, listening for the voice of Christ,  
and follow the example he left us.  
And may God lead you to places of rest and renewal;  
May Christ Jesus give you life in abundance;  
And may the Holy Spirit fill your hearts with gladness and generosity.  
**Amen.**

#### **DISMISSAL**

We go in peace of Christ. **Alleluia! Amen.**