

Connected

Sunday 13th February 2022
3rd Sunday before Lent

Verse For The Week

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."
"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me."

(John 10: 11, 14)

Our Response

Have a look first at the Sermon Snippets. How might we respond to the passage this week? Larissa suggests the following:

- To accept that, like sheep, we are dependent on the Good Shepherd. We are imperfect and need Jesus to support our daily lives and to save us. There is no substitute for the Good Shepherd.
- To recognise how much we mean to Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and how much he loves us. If he loves us, he also loves those around us; and so we need to treat others as children of God or fellow sheep of his pasture.
- To try to journey with the Good Shepherd, to know him, and to identify when we are distracted by false shepherds or wolves.

Watch the Morning Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

Go to the 'Church Life' menu and click on the 'Sunday Services' page.

"I am the Good Shepherd"

(John 10: 11-18)



Sermon Snippets

The use of the image of a shepherd marks a transition in the relationship between God and humanity both in the Old and New Testaments.

During the exile, Isaiah compared God to a shepherd who cared for and protected his flock:

*"He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young."* (Isaiah 40:11)

This chapter in Isaiah marks the beginning of a more gentle, less judgemental relationship between God and the people of Israel. God commits to a new level of intimacy and relationship with his people, journeying with them, and being with them in their troubles (which were pretty significant in exile).

But he also promised to sing a new song. He promised and pointed to the coming Messiah – Jesus!

When Jesus says: "I am the Good Shepherd" (John 10:11) Jesus is claiming the identity of the Messiah and Shepherd that Isaiah spoke about.

In the same way as sheep trespass on to the land of others, humans make bad choices and sin! The shepherds of Jesus' day had a bad reputation for allowing sheep to stray on to the land of others, causing damage. However, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, commits to take the flak for what we do wrong! The Good Shepherd "lays down his life for the sheep". (John 10:11)

Prayer Pointers

Monday

Hearts: - On this St Valentine's Day, we give thanks to the Lord for the love of Partners and for all the blessings of family life. We pray also for those whose Partner is now with the Lord, that this day will bring memories of happy times spent with them.

Tuesday

Clubs: - Ask for God's blessing on all our church groups - the Toddler Group and JaM Club at Christ Church, and the Fellowship Group and Beacon at Emmanuel - and on all those who run them. Pray particularly for the Life Groups and their leaders.

Wednesday

Diamonds: - In our past, we all have someone without whom we might never have found our way to the Lord and someone who has helped us through a time of crisis. Praise God for providing us with these true gems just when we needed them.

Thursday

Spades: - Pray for all who labour for the Church: For missionaries, striving to bring God's word to distant lands; for workers of the Barnabas Fund, helping Christians in need; for our own ministry team here in Weston.

Friday

Jokers: - We thank the Lord for those in whose company the sun shines even in the rain and who bring a smile to our faces even when we are feeling low. All our friends are gifts from God; give thanks to Him for them.

Saturday

Ask for God's blessing on our whole church community - for every card in the pack plays an important part - the cleaners, gardeners, musicians, admin staff, singers, welcomers and our lay readers. Praise the Lord that we are members of such an active, loving and supportive Christian fellowship.

Salvation Army need Volunteers

The Salvation Army are looking for willing volunteers to join their Wednesday Lunch Club and Thursday Food Bank. More details can be found on the poster in church, or from the church office. Please pray that they will find the right people.



What's On This Week

Mon 14 Feb

Ladies Together at 2.30pm in the Spire Centre

Tue 15 Feb

Parish Prayers at 09.30 at Emmanuel Church
The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel Church

Wed 16 Feb

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10.15 at Christ Church
(please note that this event is currently full)
Alpha Course at 7pm in the Spire Centre

Thu 17 Feb

Welcome Group at 2.30pm at Emmanuel Church
Craft & Chat at 2.30pm in the Spire Centre
JaM Club at 3.30pm in Christ Church
(pre-registration is required for this event)

Notices

Tom on Leave

Please note that Tom will be away on Monday 14th February. As Tuesday is his normal day off he will therefore be back on Wednesday 15th.

Digging Deeper

This is a reminder about our new resource - Digging Deeper. Each week you'll be able to access this resource to dig deeper into Sunday's Bible passage.

You can find it on the Christ Church website under the sermon video. Scroll down to the bottom and click on 'Notes'. There will be three sections - Chat, Study, Think - and you can use them on your own, with a friend, in your family, or with your Life Group.



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