

Worship on April 30, 2023 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)
(Welcoming Elder: Kevin Johnston)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 251 Christ is alive
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Time for our children and youth
- Praise song – BOP 11 The Lord's my shepherd

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- First reading: 2 Kings 7:1-9
- Second reading: Psalm 23 (refrain 2)
- Third reading: John 10:1-10
- Sermon: I am the gate for the sheep
- Prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 425 We praise you, O God vs. 1) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 634 Will you come and follow

We Serve

- Benediction

As we come into the presence of our God, let us open our hearts and minds,
and focus on our Lord and King.

Responsive Call to Worship

God, our Shepherd, offers us abundant life.

God, you are with us!

God, our Shepherd, leads us by still waters.

God, restore our souls!

God, our Shepherd, walks with us through every dark valley.

God, we will not be afraid!

God, our Shepherd, we praise for your goodness and mercy with us every day.

Praise song – BOP 251 Christ is alive

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God of love, we come trusting that your love has the power to defeat evil in the world.
Jesus shows us that your love defeats even the power of death. You are with us through the
darkest valleys so that we are not afraid. We worship you with glad hearts, praising you in the
name of our Risen Lord, praying with the breath of your Spirit in us. Renew our strength and

courage to face whatever each day holds, so our lives will bring you honour and glory now and always.

God of love, we confess that too often we let the events around us shatter our trust in your love. When terror strikes and innocents fall, we wonder if love can defeat violence. When truth gets lost among misleading claims, we wonder if love can prevail over lies. Forgive us, God, when we lose our trust in the power of your love.

This time we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray: (The 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 forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Friends in Christ, The Apostle Paul asked: What will separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship? Distress? Peril or sword? No! he declared. Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Let us rejoice that, no matter what is happening around us, God's gracious and forgiving love will never let us go

May the peace of the Lord be with you. Let us take few moments to greet each other and share this joy of our Risen Lord.

Prayer for children and youth

Living God, you are here with us. You are present in our daily lives. We praise and worship you. This time, we are praying for our children and youth. Gracious and loving God, capture their hearts. Open their hearts. Open their eyes. Open all their senses so that they know you. They accept you as their Lord and God. God, you are a personal God. In the way they can come to you, guide each of them to your love. You are the gate for the sheep. You are the gate to life. Help us bring our children and youth to your presence, to the true life. Give us faith and courage and wisdom. Give life to our next generation. Revive your church. Let your glory fall upon them and fill all the earth through them. All the praise and honour and glory and wisdom are yours. Be praised and be glorified. Use us and use our next generations. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: BOP 11 The Lord's my shepherd

Prayer for Illumination:

God of green pastures and still waters, quiet our hearts and minds as we listen to the Scriptures. By your Spirit, deepen our understanding so that we come to know you more fully, and follow your Word more faithfully. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

First reading: 2 Kings 7:1-9

Second reading: Psalm 23 (refrain 2)

Third reading: John 10:1-11

"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."

SERMON: I am the gate for the sheep

Today's sermon title is **"I am the gate for the sheep."**

Jesus being the shepherd is one of the most favorite images we have for Jesus. Shepherd. What does he do? What is he like?

According to our passage, the shepherd is the ones who enters the gate. Sheep know the *voice* of their shepherd. The shepherd knows the names of his own sheep. And he gathers sheep and leads them out. By the gate, he stands and counts his sheep. **V4, "When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice."**

All I said now is a quick summary of v1-4. In this short passage, there mentioned twice that **the sheep know the voice of their shepherd.**

When we say that we know the voice, it implies that we have heard his voice many times. If you have a dog, or see dogs in parks, many dogs can do some tricks. John loves dogs. He never let a dog pass him in a park. He always goes to them and pet them. Many times, owners let John give their dogs some treats. But, before doing it, they ask John to say "sit," "paw or hands," or "wait." Usually, dogs sit and wait for the treat already because they listen to their owners saying "sit" when they explain to John.

But, what if John stays with dogs without owners? Would they listen to John?

Most likely, NO. Because they do not know John's voice. In other words, the dogs do not have any relationship with John. So, when the Bible says, "the sheep know the voice of their shepherd," this means, they have relationship with their shepherd.

V5, They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.

Dogs will not listen to John because he is a stranger to the dogs. When strangers come to sheep, they run away. There is no relationship.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Ps 23:1

We love this verse and we love to recite it. Are we, then, saying that we are the sheep following the shepherd? OR are we the sheep going own our ways?

Do we know the voice of our shepherd? Are we following the voice our shepherd like the sheep in our passage or in Psalm 23?

When Jesus sees our daily lives, what would he say? **"Oh my precious sheep, you are following me very well." OR "Hey, my sheep, where are you heading? This is not the way! Come back to the right track!"**

I hope and pray that God opens our ears to the voice of our Shepherd, so we can listen to him.

V7-10 is the explanation of Jesus' speech on shepherd and sheep relationship. Because Jesus spoke in figure of speech, many times, the disciples could not understand clearly. So, we find Jesus is giving them interpretation of what he said.

In the explanation today, Jesus is using **“I AM.”** This reminds them the Old Testament God. **I am who I am. Exodus 3:14.** God is introducing himself to Moses. This is how God refers himself. And Jesus is foretelling his true identity. He is making himself equal to God. **“I am the gate for the sheep.” (v7) V9, again, “I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.”**

Jesus still uses the shepherd image. Here, we can think about the meaning of **gate. (PIC)** This is what we have in our imagination for sheepfold gate. Basically, a gate is a door. What a door does is to distinguish two different areas. In and out. In my room, in the washroom, in the store, in the office, in the sheep pen.

In the passage, when sheep come out of the sheep pen, a shepherd watches over them. The shepherd takes care of them from wild animals, poisonous plants, dangerous areas, or strangers, that is thieves.

Like Psalm 23, God promises to protect us. **“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rods and your staff – they comfort me.”** It goes along with the promise from today’s passage to provide and find pasture for them. **V10, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”**

This is the purpose why Jesus came to us and why Jesus became our shepherd. **He wants us to have life, not just life, but abundant life.**

Last week, we talked about what we should do now. Peter proclaimed, **“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” (Acts 2:38)**

We are the sheep enjoying the presence of God in safe and peaceful environment. **Then, what about the sheep wandering in the wilderness?** They are exposed to the danger. Thieves and bandits are waiting for them to steal, to kill, and to destroy. **They need, like us, the Shepherd too.**

Revelation 3:20, **“Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.”** “Sheep! You know my voice. Listen to my voice and open. Come back.” This is the cry out of Jesus Christ with a desperate heart for the lost souls.

What is the purpose of Jesus coming again?
Jesus wants all of people for whom he shed his precious blood to have life and have it abundantly.

So, Jesus is gate, we, as his sheep, pass the gate. Then, what’s beyond the gate?

John 14:6, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

We, as sheep of our good shepherd, can go to find pasture.
Jesus is the ONLY gate to God the Father.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil;

My cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

May this blessing to be yours, now and forever, and share this blessing to your surroundings.

This is the word of the Lord for us today.

Prayer for the people of God

Jesus, thank you for being our shepherd. Jesus, thank you for being our gate. You are the gate, you are the door to the true life. You are connecting us to God the Father. You lead us to green pastures and we confess to you that you have no need when we are with you, when you become our shepherd, when we follow your guidance. Thank you for bringing us here. Thank you for opening our ears to listen to your voice. Accept our worship and praise.

God the Father, we learned your desire. You want all people to have life, not just life, but abundant life. We live life but we are busy just hanging in there. Many times, we are not able to enjoy your presence and your glory and love for us. Lord Jesus, hold our hands and lead us to your truth, the right way, and the real right, abundant life. We long to live our lives up to our calling. We know that you have special plans for each of us. Speak to us clearly, so we know where we should go. Give us clear direction, we are not wise. Also, we are not courageous. Give us power and strength, so we may faithfully follow and walk with you.

God of grace and love, we remember the people who are struggling in their own life's paths. If there are difficulties with their health, please help them. With your healing power, heal them and recover their health. If they are having hard time within their relationships, God of peace, grant them peace. Whether they are connected again or not, encourage them and embrace them. Fill their hearts with your love. Also, there are many other life's situations. You are the good shepherd. Guide them in the right path and green pastures, so they experience goodness of God.

Holy Spirit, we invite you in our hearts in our worship. Fill us with you, so we may live with you. Lead our church with your love and to your right path for your name's sake. Be worshipped and be glorified. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want": the words of the Psalm celebrate God's overflowing goodness and mercy in our lives. We offer God our gifts so God's goodness and mercy will keep flowing into the world God made. As we offer our gifts, let us praise God and glorify him.

The Doxology (BOP 425)

Offering prayer:

God with a tender heart, we thank you for the care you offer to us as our Shepherd. Bless the gifts we offer so they will spread your abundant love to lives in need of caring. Bless our lives so that we may care for the world as we follow Jesus day by day. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 634 Will you come and follow

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. God leads us step by step. He is powerful, he is reliable, he is gentle, he is kind, and he knows us by each of our name. We can look up to him. He promises abundant life to us. May God fill your hearts and may you walk with him.

Benediction: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.