

Sunday Worship on May 11, 2024

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Kevin Johnston)

Sunday Order of Worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 434 For the beauty of the earth
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 11 The Lord's my shepherd (Psalm 23)

We listen

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Revelation 7:9-17
- Second reading: Psalm 23 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: John 10:22-30
- Sermon: **The Shepherd who knows my name**
- Hymn BOP 485 Saviour, like a shepherd lead us
- Prayer after communion

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 830) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 650 He leadeth me

We Serve

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

Responsive Call to Worship

With all those in heaven and on earth, let us say together:

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!

Let us praise God with joyful hearts:

We come before the throne of God to worship day and night.

Called together by the Holy Spirit, let us rejoice and sing:

We will hunger and thirst no more; Christ brings us eternal life.

Praise song – BOP 434 For the beauty of the earth

Prayer of Adoration

God of the ages, God of today, you are compassion; our cup overflows.

You are hope; you lead us into green pastures. You are truth; you lead us beside quiet streams. You are life; you restore our souls. Morning, noon and night, O God, you are the source of our joy. We gather to worship you as one family of your people, honouring you as our Creator, trusting you as our Saviour, celebrating you as the Spirit who gives us life.

Prayer of confession (Unison) *(Let us come to God with the prayer of confession in unison.)*

Merciful God, we confess we stray from your ways like lost sheep; we follow the plans, intentions, and desires of our hearts, ignoring the needs of others and seeking more for ourselves. We judge ourselves more generously than others and fail to offer others the forgiveness we seek from you. Forgive the ways we betray your love, and return us to your paths of truth and mercy.

Heavenly Father, hear us, as we offer the Prayer that Jesus taught us: (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

Christ dwells in our hearts through faith, for we are being rooted and grounded in his love. The forgiveness he offers is a gift of this love.

Receive God's forgiveness with faithful hearts, and be at peace with God, with yourself and with each other.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you. *(Let us bless each other with the peace of the Lord.)*

Praise song – BOP 11 The Lord's my shepherd (Psalm 23)

Prayer for Children

Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)

- First reading: Revelation 7:9-17
- Second reading: Psalm 3 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: John 10:22-30

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

SERMON: The Shepherd who knows my name

Jesus was walking in the temple during the Feast of Dedication when the people confronted him.

V24, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." It's a question to trap him. Knowing their intention, Jesus gives a powerful answer. **V25, "Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. ... you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep."** Jesus excludes them, giving an example of sheep. About his sheep. He says they hear his voice, they follow him, and most importantly, he knows them.

The God of the universe knows you by name. The Shepherd, Jesus Christ, is not distant. He's not cold or impersonal. He's near. He speaks. He walks with you. And he knows your name.

V27, "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me." These are not just poetic words. Jesus is describing a relationship that is personal, intimate, and deeply rooted in love. To be known by Jesus is more than just being acknowledged. It is to be cherished, protected, and remembered.

Psalm 23 begins with these words: **v1, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."** That line isn't just about provision. It's about relationship. David is declaring, "I am not alone. My Shepherd knows what I need, and he is with me."

Have you ever had someone important remember your name? In 2008, when I was at Tyndale College for my bachelor's degree, there was a very respectful professor. I was a quiet student. One day after I was asked to serve a youth group as a student minister. My first ministry experience. Tyndale University has Tuesday community worship service. I went and I sat beside the professor. We greeted and I asked about my situation. I didn't say my name, but he called me by my name. I don't remember the conversation, but the fact that he knew my name was in my heart. Do you have similar experiences? Maybe a teacher, a leader, or someone you look up to? It makes you feel valuable, cherished, seen and known.

Now, imagine that Jesus, the risen Son of God, not only remembers your name but has written your name in heaven.

If you have the feeling that you are not important? That is so not true. You are remembered. Your name is not forgotten. You are not just a face in the crowd, but you are loved and cared by Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, and our Shepherd.

V27, "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me." Jesus says that his sheep hear his voice and follow him. Sheep recognize the voice of their shepherd. It doesn't happen overnight. They learn it through time. They build up trust over time by repetition. They repeat the same activities over and over. They go out to the pastures, they eat, they go to streams, they drink, they go home and rest. When they are hungry, the shepherd comes and leads them to green pastures. When they are thirsty, the shepherd guides them to streams. Slowly, gradually, sheep learn the voice of the shepherd and follow the voice.

In the same way, we learn to recognize the voice of Jesus as we spend time with him in Scripture, in prayer, in worship, and in fellowship of God's people.

Jesus' voice is different. Jesus never manipulates or condemns us. He speaks the truth in love. He draws us to repentance and fills us with hope.

But here's the challenge. There are many voices competing for our attention. The voice of fear, the voice of shame, the voice of pressure, the voice of regret, and many other voices. We need to tune our hearts to the voice of our Shepherd.

Are you listening? Are you following?
What voice has the loudest influence in your life?

V28, Jesus says, "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand." This is not wishful thinking. It's a divine promise.

The hands that formed the stars are the same hands that hold you. Jesus goes even further. **V29, "What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand."** This is security. This is assurance. Your salvation is not fragile. It is held firmly by the Father and the Son. You are securely held in both.

In Revelation 7, we see the outcome of this promise. **V9, “there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.”** They have come through great tribulation. They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. And now the Lamb is their Shepherd.

This world is not stable. Where do you find the rest you need? Do you have a stronghold? Believe the promise of God. God and Jesus are holding you firmly so no one can snatch you out of God’s hand.

Psalm 23:4 says, “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.” Jesus doesn’t only wait for us at the finish line. He walks with us through every dark valley.

He knows what it's like to suffer. He knows what it's like to be rejected. And he chooses to stay close. His rod and staff comfort us. Not just as tools of discipline, but as symbols of his constant care. **Psalm 119:105, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”** Imagine a sheep looking at the rod and the staff. It only sees the tip of the rod, not the whole thing. In the same way, God does not say the word is a spotlight that shows everything. Instead, God’s word is a lamp. It only shows one or two steps. Jesus walks with us. Jesus stays close to us.

Whatever season you are in whether you are in grief, fear, uncertainty, know this. The Shepherd is with you. He is not in a hurry. He walks at your pace. He leads you beside still waters.

Conclusion: He Knows My Name

The Shepherd who calls you by name knows your story, your scars, and your struggles. And still, Jesus calls you his own. Jesus leads you, feeds you, protects you, and holds you in his hand.

His voice brings peace. His care brings confidence. His presence brings joy. Today, hear his voice again. Not in thunder, but in tenderness. Not with fear, but with love. Will you listen and follow his voice? Will you trust the Shepherd who knows your name?

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Praise song – BOP 485 Saviour, like a shepherd lead us

Prayer for the people:

Gracious and loving Jesus. You are our shepherd. We thank you for the word we have received today. The words of comfort, security, and truth. Thank you for reminding us that we are not alone, we are not forgotten, we are not lost in the noise of this world. You know us by name. You walk with us. You hold us in your hand, and no one can snatch us away. What a gift of grace and peace. Lord, help us hear your voice more clearly and follow you more faithfully. We praise you for being the shepherd who leads, protects, and stays with us through every valley and every season of life.

We remember this world you love. There are so many places in need of your healing and guidance. We give thanks for the newly elected Pope Leo XIV. As he begins his sacred responsibility, we ask you to fill him with wisdom, humility, and the heart of Christ. May he lead with clarity, compassion, and a deep commitment to the gospel in this new

season.

We also lift up the nations of India and Pakistan. As they face complex challenges, including political tension, religious conflict, and economic pressure, please bring peace where there is division, justice where there is oppression, and wisdom to leaders at every level. Raise up voices of reconciliation and healing, and let your Holy Spirit move across both nations in power. Humble their hearts and let them fear you and fill them with your peace.

We also lift up the needs within our own church family. For those who are sick, grant healing and comfort. For those who are travelling or away, protect them and give them rest. For those facing difficulties, in finances, in work, in family relationships, or in emotional pain, Lord, be near to them. Remind them that you are the shepherd who walks with them. Help us, as a church, to carry one another's burdens and point one another back to your goodness and grace.

And today, we thank you especially for mothers. We give you praise for the gift of their love, their strength, their sacrifice, and their care. For those celebrating, bless and honour them. For those grieving, whether through loss, distance, infertility, or broken relationships, comfort them deeply. May all women in our church know that they are cherished, loved, and valued by you, our Good Shepherd.

Lead us onward, Lord, in faith, in trust, and in joy. May your goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives. We worship you and we love you. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering:

In the Easter season, we celebrate God's most precious gift to us in Christ's dying and his rising. As we present our offering, let God be glorified and let his hope fill our hearts. Jesus, our good shepherd, will lead us every day and always. As we give our offerings, let us glorify him. (*BOP #830, Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*)

Offering prayer:

Generous God, thank you for all we have received from you in Christ and in creation; your generosity to us overflows. Bless the gifts we bring and use them and us in the service of your reign of justice and peace, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Guide and Shepherd. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 650 He leadeth me

Now, it is time for us to be sent to the world where God called us to be. Jesus speaks to us in our daily lives. I hope and pray that you will be able to recognize his voice. Jesus also walks with us. With the shepherd's rod and staff, he guides us and protects us. Because he's with you, be courageous. He knows each one of you by name.

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