

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth  
Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Rev. Gerry Gallant

Many Sheepfolds, One Flock  
Proper 10  
John 10:1-21

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Let us worship God, our light, and our salvation.  
**The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.**

We desire to live in God's house  
**and to seek God in his holy temple.**

We have come with shouts of joy,  
**to sing and to make music to the Lord.**

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.  
**Teach us your ways and make straight our paths  
in this hour of worship and always.**

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Loving God, we have gathered to meet you.  
We have come to listen to you,  
to seek you, to worship you.  
You are the beginning of all things,  
the life of all things; you knew us before we were born.  
All knowing Father, you are here and everywhere,  
around us and within us; you know our inmost thoughts.  
In you we hope; in you we live.  
You are the source of serenity,  
giving peace that is beyond our understanding.  
We pray for your presence in our worship and in our lives  
In the name of your Son, Our Lord,  
Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Children's Hymn #449: "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"**

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
 Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
 Lord, listen to your children praying,  
 Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**Call to Confession****Prayer of Confession**

Holy and merciful God,  
 in your presence we confess  
 our sinfulness, our shortcomings,  
 and our offenses against you.  
 You alone know how often we have sinned  
 in wandering from your ways,  
 in wasting your gifts,  
 in forgetting your love.  
 Have mercy on us, O Lord,  
 for we are ashamed and sorry  
 for all we have done to displease you.  
 Forgive our sins,  
 and help us to live in your light  
 and walk in your ways,  
 for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news!  
 There is no condemnation  
 for those who are in Christ Jesus.  
 Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.  
 The old life has gone;  
 a new life has begun.

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name  
 Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven  
 Give us this day our daily bread  
 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors  
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one  
 For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
 Forever and ever, Amen.

**Hymn #358: "There is a Redeemer"**

There is a Redeemer,  
 Jesus God's own Son,  
 Precious Lamb of God,  
 Messiah, Holy One.

**Chorus**

Thank You, O my Father  
 For giving us Your Son,  
 And leaving Your Spirit 'til  
 Your work on earth is done.

Jesus my Redeemer,  
 Name above all names,  
 Precious Lamb of God,  
 Messiah, O for sinners slain. (Chorus)

When I stand in glory  
 I will see His face,  
 And there I'll serve  
 My King forever,  
 In that holy place. (Chorus)

**Responsive Reading****Isaiah 55:10-13**

10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
 and do not return there but water the earth,  
 making it bring forth and sprout,  
 giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
**11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;**  
**it shall not return to me empty,**  
**but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,**  
**and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.**

12 "For you shall go out in joy  
 and be led forth in peace;  
 the mountains and the hills before you  
 shall break forth into singing,  
 and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
**13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;**  
**instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;**  
**and it shall make a name for the LORD,**  
**an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."**

## Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture

#### John 10:1-21

10 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup> But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. <sup>11</sup> I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

<sup>19</sup> There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. <sup>20</sup> Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” <sup>21</sup> Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

### Sermon

As we begin in chapter 10 of the book of John, I want to once again remind you that the Bible does not really have chapters or verse numbers.

This is important in understanding the setting of the Scripture we are studying today. It is not some speech that was given in a room, or on the side of a hill. Instead, it is a continuation of Jesus’s words with those religious leaders he has been in confrontation with since they had attempted to stone him for stating he is the ‘I am.’

In fact, the religious leaders that he is speaking to today are the ones that confronted him for his Sabbath breaking by healing the man born blind. The same ones he spoke to of their spiritual blindness in last week's Scripture, the same ones who refused to see the error of their understanding of God's Word because of their own pride.

Remember that the man who had been blind was harassed by the religious leaders, interrogated by them. Remember that they tried to tell him to call Jesus a sinner and when he refused to call Jesus a sinner, they cast him out of the synagogue and out of Jewish society.

What Jesus is doing in today's Scripture is contrasting the way of a true religious leader and the way of a false religious leader.

He is speaking to them directly when he says.

**John 10:1-2**

**10 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup> But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.**

Jesus is using the metaphor of the shepherd to help them understand the difference between a good religious leader and a false religious leader.

He uses the concept of the sheepfold or sheep pen. An enclosure that was often in the middle of a field, or sometimes on the edge of a town or city. It is a simple structure that has four fences and a small opening, without a gate, which the sheep would pass through to enter or exit the sheepfold.

Everyone in Jesus's day would have been familiar with sheepfolds, and everyone knew that they had no gate because the shepherd who never left his sheep would himself lay down at that small opening and be the gate for his sheep. This allowed him to be near them always and always protect them from harm.

So, what Jesus is doing is painting a picture of a legitimate shepherd and a false shepherd. If you were the legitimate shepherd of a flock, you enter and exit at the opening. However, if you were a false shepherd, you leapt the fence to get in with the sheep.

Jesus is saying that there is a door, a proper way to be among the sheep, a proper way for them to stand among the sheep and shepherd them, however not everyone who is among the sheep who has entered the sheepfold has done so in the proper God ordained way.

Jesus is telling those religious leaders that he is speaking with, the ones who had cast out the blind man, the ones who continued to seek to prosecute him, the ones who were filled with

their own pride and pursuit of worldly love and worldly acclaim, that they were the robbers and thieves that had leapt the fence.

Many of the religious leaders of the day had not been called by God, instead they had come in by personal connection, by political means or through their own pursuit of the power and prestige associated with being a religious leader. They came in through formal education, ambition, manipulation, and competition. They wanted to be religious leaders for all the wrong reasons, they were not called by God to serve but instead sought for others to serve them.

He calls them thieves and robbers among God's people. We might think of these two words having the same meaning, however in the Greek these two words have distinct and different meanings. A thief is someone who steals from you through stealth and deception. They look to con you or trick you into giving up those things you value. A robber, however, is someone who takes from you through an act of violence or force.

Remember that Jesus is speaking of spiritual leaders here and spiritual things.

What Jesus is saying is that some people have become spiritual leaders through deception. Some people have become spiritual leaders by deceiving others, lying about their true beliefs, lying about their true intent, being willing to say and do whatever they need to get what they want in the end. And that there are others who have become spiritual leaders through the use of force and intimidation, again doing whatever it takes to get what they want in the end.

I believe his words to those spiritual leaders are just as true today, maybe even more true in a world that focuses too much on worldly education and worldly acceptance, over a true calling to be a servant of God, when they seek someone to lead the flock.

Notice Jesus says that the true shepherd comes in the way that was designed by God. He comes through the door, the way that God intended. Through a call of love, and care, and of sacrificial service.

**John 10:3-6**

**<sup>3</sup>To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup>This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.**

Jesus says that there is one way to be a shepherd of the flock, God's way.

The legitimate shepherd comes to the sheepfold and calls his sheep, and they know his voice.

Again, this would have been simple for the people of Jesus's day to understand, however, we do not have a sheepfold on the edge of town so it's a little more difficult for us to grasp.

In a sheepfold there was often more than one flock, the shepherds in a region would maintain and use the sheepfold together. At night whether it was a sheepfold in the middle of a grazing pasture or on the edge of a town, the shepherds in the region would come to the gate and put their flock inside.

Do you think the sheep being good natured would of course all stay together as a group and not intermingle with the other sheep? Of course not, they would intermingle, get mixed up and become one huge flock of sheep for the night.

However, in the morning that shepherd would stand at the gate and call his sheep and they would all come to him, and pass through the gate, under his watchful eye, back into the pastures for grazing. Just his sheep, all the rest would happily stay in the sheepfold waiting to hear the voice of their own shepherd.

Remember the shepherd knows his sheep and they know him. They know his voice because he speaks to them, he calls to them, he corrects them, and he loves them.

Jesus knows his people, he calls them, and they come to him. They come to him because he knows them, and he knows everything in their lives. Remember every sheep was different, every sheep had an individual relationship with the shepherd. The same is true of Jesus and you, every one of you has a different relationship with Jesus, seek out his voice in your life so it becomes familiar to you, read his Word and get to know his voice so that you can follow it faithfully in your life.

Jesus then continues.

**John 10:7-10**

**<sup>7</sup> So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.**

Jesus is the door, the one and only way into the sheepfold. That is a narrow doorway, with only one way in and one way out, and to pass through it you must pass under the eyes of Jesus Christ.

Christianity is exclusive, Jesus is the one and only way to God and the one and only way to heaven. Jesus himself says it multiple times in the Scripture, this is just one more example of his stating that fact.

Anyone who belong to the flock of Jesus Christ will be a member of his flock and they will have the Good Shepherd watching over them as he leads them into the pastures during the day so that they can be blessed, and then into the protection of the sheepfold at night so that they can be protected. Jesus came so that his flock can have life and have life more abundantly.

How does a sheep have an abundant life? Is the sheep wearing designer clothing, is the sheep carrying a wallet full of cash, is the sheep popular on social media?

No, the sheep has an abundant life because it has food and shelter, it has the love and care of the shepherd. It has an abundant life because it belongs to the flock of the shepherd.

Think about it, if having wealth, power, fame, prestige or any worldly measurement of success was an abundant life then those people who have it would be happy people. Yet when you look at the people who have these worldly things in abundance, they are often some of the most miserable, disagreeable, angry and depressed people in the world. Sure, they may be able to put on a fake smile and feign happiness, but deep down and as they age, they begin to realize that all that they have here on earth has no meaning after they die.

Abundant life does not refer to the ease, comfort or length of your life! Abundant life is a life filled with the satisfaction and contentment that comes from Jesus Christ alone. This is what Jesus brings to his people.

Think of all those people out there living lives of discontent, living life with this gnawing unhappiness. People who know that there is something more to life than the simple existence and rat race we get caught up in everyday in this world.

They need the abundant life that comes from knowing the Good Shepherd. They need Jesus Christ in their lives.

Did you know that God is glorified when we are content in our lives? That you simply being content is one of the greatest testimonies that you have in this world.

Think about it, if you see a sheep that is sick, that is losing its wool, that is underfed, that is in distress. What do you think of the shepherd?

What about when you see a happy and content sheep? You think that they have a pretty good shepherd.

The same is true of us in our lives. Those people who are living lives of discontent, living lives of unhappiness, those who are seeking fulfillment. They look at you and see you living a life where you are happy and content with what you have, and they want to know why. And perhaps though your simple life, you can be given the opportunity to introduce them to Jesus Christ and forever change their lives as they discover the Good Shepherd in their lives.

**John 10:11-21**

**<sup>11</sup> I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.**

Jesus says, I am the Good Shepherd. He is directly contrasting himself to the religious leaders yet again. Calling them bad shepherds.

He speaks about how the good shepherd protects his flock. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. The hireling does not.

Do you see the contradiction that Jesus Christ is making here. A good shepherd sacrifices of himself for the flock, a hireling will sacrifice the flock for himself.

Remember that life abundantly comes from the Good Shepherd, and the Good Shepherd gives his life for the sheep. Jesus's sacrifice upon the cross, his blood for our sin, is what bought us an abundant and eternal life.

Jesus then continues.

**John 10:16-21**

**<sup>16</sup> And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.**

Jesus says that I have other sheep that are not in this sheepfold. He says my flock is bigger than just this structure, just this one sheepfold.

Jesus is speaking of every believer who did not come from the Jewish faith tradition. Every single follower of Jesus Christ who was not there in that day.

Jesus says that there is one flock and many folds. There are many structures that the flock of Jesus Christ are in, but they all belong to one flock.

In Perth there are many sheepfolds, God's sheep are in each of them, intermixed with the flocks of others at times, yet when the One Good Shepherd calls his sheep will come out because they know his voice.

The folds are all different, all around the world, the sheep however have unity in Jesus Christ even if their fold are very different.

When you meet a brother or sister who comes from a very different faith tradition, you may disagree on style of worship, on the songs we sing, or anything else, but you will find unity in your focus on Jesus Christ and all else does not matter.

Many sheepfolds, one flock, one Shepherd!

**John 10:17-18**

**<sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”**

Jesus quite plainly says that he will lay down His life for His sheep. Not only will He lay His life down, but he will also pick it back up again.

**John 10:19-21**

**<sup>19</sup> There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. <sup>20</sup> Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” <sup>21</sup> Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”**

Once again, he divides the people. Those who are of his flock and those who are not. Those who believe in him and those who do not.

Jesus says ‘I will lay my life down and I will raise myself up’. Again, he is saying I am God, I have power over life and death.

Jesus did incredible works, he spoke eloquently on the Scriptures, he lived a life filled with love, grace and mercy.

Yet there are still people who will deny who he is, people who will call him crazy, people who will reject him because of their own pursuit of worldly goals and worldly passions. There will be people in this world who will gladly follow a false shepherd because that shepherd promises them the things of this world that they seek, that tells them that their sins are not sins and that they can live their lives any way that they wish. The Bible says:

**2 Timothy 4:3-4**

**For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths**

Yet the truth is that even in those places there will be those who are seeking the voice of the Good Shepherd, the One True Living God, and each and every one of us, all of God’s flock are called to be out there in the world, living our lives in abundant contentment, living as the Salt

and Light of God's Word so that other may get to know his voice as well, in this dark and broken world.

Let us pray,

**A Prayer for Defense and Deliverance**

We ask you, Master,  
 be our helper and defender.  
 Rescue those of us who are in distress;  
 raise up the fallen;  
 assist the needy;  
 heal the sick;  
 turn back those of your people who stray;  
 feed the hungry;  
 release our captives;  
 revive the weak;  
 encourage those who lose heart.  
 Let all the nations realize that you are the only God,  
 that Jesus Christ is your Son,  
 and that we are your people and the sheep of your pasture.  
 In Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**

*Source: Clement of Rome (c. 96)Hymn*

**Hymn: "He is Lord"**

He is Lord! He is Lord!  
 He is risen from the dead and He is Lord!  
 Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess  
 that Jesus Christ is Lord.

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offering Prayer**

**Closing Hymn #681: "We Have Heard a Joyful Sound" (V 1,2,4)**

We have heard a joyful sound,  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 Spread the gladness all around:  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 Bear the news to every land,  
 climb the steeps and cross the waves;

onward! 'tis our Lord's command:  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Waft it on the rolling tide,  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 Tell to sinners far and wide,  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 Sing, ye islands of the sea,  
 echo back, ye ocean's caves;  
 earth shall keep her jubilee:  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Give the winds a mighty voice,  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 Let the nations now rejoice:  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 Shout salvation full and free  
 to every strand that ocean laves;  
 this our song of victory,  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

### **Pastoral Prayer**

O great God, glorify yourself in all the earth.  
 Be glorified in creation, be glorified in your church,  
 be glorified in our worship here this very morning.

Though we are so small and you are so grand,  
 help us nevertheless to magnify your name.  
 Help us to make your name and the nature of your grace  
 larger and easier for people to see.  
 Help us to live and to worship in such a way  
 that we become like magnifying glasses  
 through which our neighbors and coworkers and children and friends  
 can see you come into focus in ways they may not have seen before.

When people ask for an explanation of the hope we have,  
 give us the words to answer thoughtfully and well.  
 When people wonder out loud who Jesus is and why he matters,  
 help us to reply in words that will echo the sweetness of your gospel.  
 Help us to magnify your name, O Lord,  
 so that you may be glorified in all the earth.

Father, ours is a world that could use more glimpses of glory  
and fewer glimpses of the hell to which our sin so easily leads.  
Ours is a world that needs more of the gentle words of your Son, Jesus,  
and fewer angry words shouted.  
We need your glory, Lord God, so that we can aspire to be more like you  
and less like the selfish, self-indulgent creatures we have become in our sin.

We need the glory of your grace in a world bent on revenge,  
the glory of your truth in a world in love with lies,  
the glory of your holiness in a world filled with tawdriness,  
the glory of your resurrection life in a world mired in death.

Bless our congregation.  
Heal those who are ill;  
comfort those who are grieving;  
reassure those who feel troubled  
and frightened by what the future may hold.  
Bless the leadership of our congregation.  
Anoint them by your Spirit, and may they really feel that anointing.  
As they do sometimes difficult, sometimes joyful, but always holy work,  
may they sense your anointing.

Be in the words they speak, the cards they send, the visits they make;  
be in the meetings they attend and the committees they work on.  
Make each worker in this place a bearer of Pentecost's flame,  
warming hearts, providing hope, lending comfort,  
and so in all these ways contributing to your glory in this congregation.

Be with all of us as we prepare ourselves for the week ahead.

For any here today who face an anxious week,  
grant extra measures of your Spirit's presence and balm.  
For those who worry and who have much to worry about, lend peace.  
For those whose worries have led to ulcers, lend healing and calm.

Be also with all the lonely people.  
Be with the widow who has been alone for many years  
and who we all think has done so well  
but who alone knows how much her heart still aches more days than not.  
Be with the one who has so long wanted marriage  
but who has not found such companionship,  
and for whom the years seem to be slipping away.  
Be with divorced people who still cannot believe most days  
that their fondest dreams for wedded bliss have been shattered

and who now live with both the regret and the loneliness of it all.  
Be with those who so wish they could find someone to talk to but cannot,  
those who wait for the phone to ring but it stays silent,  
those who work so hard on tasks that no one ever mentions or comments on.  
Be with those who are hungry for a word of gratitude that never comes,  
those who search crowded rooms for a familiar face  
but who can never seem to find a friend.  
Be with all the lonely people—  
be their friend when this world's friends fail,  
be their companion when they feel that they walk life's journey alone,  
be their word of kindness and hope  
when the world seems able only to be gruff and brusque  
as it brushes past lives that don't seem to count.

Father, may you be glorified in all we do each and every day of our lives.  
We pray this in the ever precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
As the One True Living God,  
Now and forever more. **Amen.**

### **Benediction**

May our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the one who came with grace and truth,  
also fill your hearts with grace and truth,  
as you serve him in the days ahead.  
And may the joy of the Lord—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—  
be your strength. **Amen.**