

Camel-Allen Churches  
Sunday Morning Prayer at Home

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Welcome! We worship together, in the name of our risen, living Lord.

WE PREPARE

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.  
Let us recognize his presence with us.

As God's people we have gathered:  
**let us worship him together.**

Almighty God,  
your Son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your presence.  
Give us new hearts and constant wills  
to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn - *we sing or read*

**I AM TRUSTING THEE, LORD JESUS,**  
trusting only Thee;  
trusting Thee for full salvation,  
great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon,  
at Thy feet I bow;  
for Thy grace and tender mercy,  
trusting now.

I am trusting Thee for cleansing  
in the crimson flood;  
trusting Thee to make me holy  
by Thy blood.

I am trusting Thee to guide me;  
Thou alone shalt lead,  
every day and hour supplying  
all my need.

I am trusting Thee for power,  
Thine can never fail;  
words which Thou Thyself shalt give me  
must prevail.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;  
never let me fall;  
I am trusting Thee for ever,  
and for all.

*Frances Ridley Havergal*

We say, 'Sorry'....

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden,  
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Against you, you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

...and receive God's loving forgiveness

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



We praise you and we bless you,  
our risen Lord Jesus, King of Glory,  
for you promised that the same power  
that was at work in when you were raised from the dead  
would also be alive in us.

Show your power to those who are powerless;  
reveal your love to those who feel unlovely  
and through your Spirit enable all your people  
to be witnesses of your amazing grace.

To you, Lord Jesus,  
daily renewing your people and your creation,  
be honour and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Song

### THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD, I'LL NOT WANT.

He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in You alone,  
and I will trust in You alone,  
for Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
and He anoints my head with oil,  
and my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights.

*And I will trust . . .*

And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
for You are with me, and Your rod and staff  
are the comfort I need to know.

*And I will trust . . .*

*Words adapted from Psalm 23 by Stuart Townend*



**Bible Readings** Acts 2.14a, 22-32; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2. 19 - 25

**Gospel Reading** John 10. 1 - 10

## The Good Shepherd and His Sheep

[Jesus said] “Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

### Reflection

Jesus is speaking to people who know about the sheep and shepherds living in the town and on the surrounding hills. Is Jesus

just letting them know that he is knowledgeable about matters ovine, too?

No. It’s *because* the people know about shepherding that Jesus is using it as an illustration for what he wants to teach them.

Now, we may not know everything there is to know about New Testament shepherding;

but what we do know, will enable us to receive from Jesus what he is giving as he speaks.

And what Jesus wants to give us, is the truth about him;

for when he says, “I am the shepherd,” he is speaking about himself.

“I walk the path you travel, whether smooth or stony, going ahead of you, leading you to safety.

“Listen for my voice; I am calling you out of the world. Hear and respond, come be part of my flock.

“I know you inside out, you are all equally precious to me.

“I will keep you safe and fulfilled within my flock, you will know safety and plenty.

So, why does Jesus say, “I am the Gate.”?

What else does he want us to learn about him?

Let’s make our way to the rough sheepfold on the hillside, where we see the shepherd lying across the opening in the stone walls; he is the only way in or out

And so, when Jesus says, “I am the gate,”

he’s telling us that only through him,

can we enter into God’s fold.

Jesus the Gate is also the Shepherd who calls us out,

leading us to all we need to thrive and grow as we follow him.

Consider the word **GATE**

In just one word God shows us that:

**G**od **A**cccepts **a**nd **T**reasures **E**veryone,

**G**od loves unconditionally,

**A**cccepts us as we are,

**T**reasures us as his precious children,

**E**veryone, not just some.

“I am the Gate,” says Jesus, “it is only through me that you can enter God’s fold.”

“When I call you, follow me; I will lead you out to pastures where you will thrive.”

“Only through me will you know safety and plenty.”

I also call *you* to be ‘gates’ through which others might come to me.

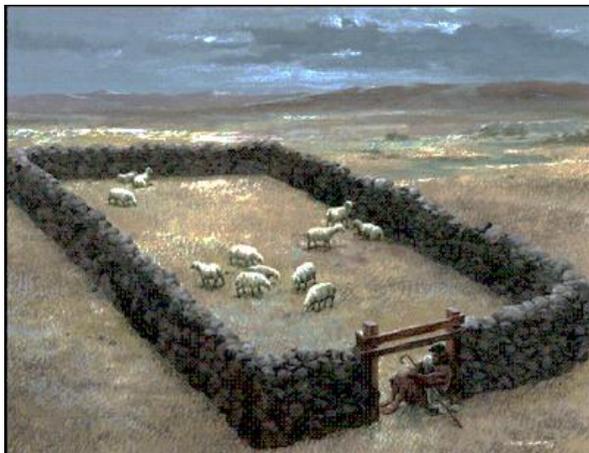
Just think of that,

Jesus could be calling us to become gates leading to him!!

Gates will never look the same again.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**



## WE MAKE OUR RESPONSE

Let us declare our faith

in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he was buried;**

**he was raised to life on the third day**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**afterwards he appeared to his followers,**

**and to all the apostles:**

**this we have received,**

**and this we believe. Amen.**

*[cf 1 Corinthians 15.3-7]*

## Song

### **FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS,**

Lord, we pray with one accord;

For a just and equal sharing

Of the things that earth affords.

To a life of love in action

Help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us, Father, into freedom,

From despair the world release;

That, redeemed from war and hatred,

Men may come and go in peace.

Show us how through care and goodness

Fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,  
Let it from the earth be banned;  
Pride of status, race or schooling,  
Dogmas keeping man from man.  
In our common quest for justice  
May we hallow life's brief span.

You Creator-God have written  
Your great Name on all mankind;  
For our growing in Your likeness  
Bring the life of Christ to mind;  
That, by our response and service  
Earth its destiny may find.

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## WE PRAY TOGETHER

### Prayers of Intercession

The Lord is our shepherd,  
and we are the sheep of his pasture.  
Let us bring to him our cares and concerns  
for the Church and the World...

Father, we give you thanks for the Church  
reaching out to so many, in so many ways.  
Keep us true to the path, following the Shepherd.  
Let us seek out and rescue the lost and the straying.

Good Shepherd,  
**Guide us and lead us.**

Lord, we bring to you all who are stumbling on stony ground.

We remember those who are struggling  
with poverty or isolation.  
We pray that we may find ways that lead to joy  
and life in all its fullness.

Good Shepherd,  
**Guide us and lead us.**

Lord, as you have opened for us the gate of everlasting life,  
help us to live life to the full.  
May we help others to extend their lives and their vision.  
Bless our homes and families with the fullness of life.

Good Shepherd,  
**Guide us and lead us.**

We remember before you, all whose lives are restricted.  
We pray for the disabled, all who are vulnerable  
or whose lives are impaired through cruelty  
or neglect of others.

We hold before you all who are sick...

Good Shepherd,  
**Guide us and lead us.**

Lord Jesus, by your death and resurrection,  
you have opened the gate,  
and showed us the way to follow your call.  
Give us the determination to follow you  
wherever the way leads

Good Shepherd,  
**Guide us and lead us. Amen.**

### The [alternative] Collect for today

Risen Christ,  
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:  
teach us to hear your voice  
and to follow your command,  
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:  
**Our Father, who art in heaven...**

### Hymn

**THERE IS A REDEEMER,**  
Jesus, God's own Son,  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy One.

*Thank You, O my Father,  
for giving us Your Son,  
and leaving Your Spirit  
till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus, my Redeemer,  
name above all names,  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
O for sinners slain:

*Thank You . . .*

When I stand in glory  
I will see His face,  
and there I'll serve my King for ever  
in that holy place.

*Thank You . . .*

Words and music by Melody Green

## OUR SERVICE DRAWS TO A CLOSE

May Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep  
who has opened for us the gate of glory  
give us life in all its fullness  
and lead us to life eternal.

**And may the almighty and merciful Lord,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
bless us and keep us. Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**



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