

MUMC At-Home Worship: April 25, 2021

It's Good Shepherd Sunday! I realize that this isn't a real holiday – and if there's any question about it, just meander down the card aisle in any store and I can promise there's not even one wishing the recipient a "Happy Good Shepherd Sunday." But it's tradition in some churches on the fourth week after Easter to read a gospel passage in which Jesus compares himself to a shepherd. It can provide a powerful context to the resurrection story and an important reminder about our place under God's protection and care. Let's open ourselves to how God might use this scripture this week! Thanks for worshipping with us! ~ *Pastor Dillon*

If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:

Dear God, lead us like a shepherd guides their sheep that we might live in your protection and grace. May our worship this day open our ears to your voice and the goodness of your message. Amen.

Hymn: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*, United Methodist Hymnal #474 [watch/listen here](#)

Scripture Reading: John 10:11-18

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflect:

1. How might the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd illuminate who Jesus is? How might Jesus being our Good Shepherd be good news?
2. Do you struggle with the idea of needing help? What are some ways that Jesus' teaching here highlights our need for a savior?
3. Jesus points out that the sheep know his voice. How might we distinguish Jesus' voice in our own lives? What are some ways we might practice listening for God?

Hymn: *I Am Thine, O Lord*, United Methodist Hymnal #419 [watch/listen here](#)

Prayer Requests: Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *God Be with You till We Meet Again*, United Methodist Hymnal #672 [watch/listen here](#)

Closing Prayer: God of compassion and grace, we are thankful for your guidance and protection. Help us to hear your voice and discern your direction, so that we might follow you and so that others might see God's voice in our way of being. Amen.

(Blow out the candle)

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
United Methodist Hymnal #474

1. Precious Lord, take my hand
lead me on, let me stand
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me
home.
2. When my way grows drear,
precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand precious Lord,
lead me home
3. When the darkness appears
and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand,
guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand precious Lord,
lead me home.

*“Precious Lord, Take My Hand” words and music
by Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; © 1938 Hill & Range
Songs, renewed Unichappell Music, Inc.*

John 10:11-18 (CEB)

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. When the hired hand sees the wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away. That’s because he isn’t the shepherd; the sheep aren’t really his. So the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. He’s only a hired hand and the sheep don’t matter to him.

“I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep and they know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. I give up my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that don’t belong to this sheep pen. I must lead them too. They will listen to my voice and there will be one flock, with one shepherd.

“This is why the Father loves me: I give up my life so that I can take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I give it up because I want to. I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it up again. I received this commandment from my Father.”

Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

I Am Thine, O Lord
United Methodist Hymnal #419

1. I am thine, O Lord,
I have heard thy voice,
and it told thy love to me;
but I long to rise in the arms of faith,
and be closer drawn to Thee.

Refrain:

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
to the cross where thou hast died.

Draw me nearer, nearer,
nearer, blessed Lord,
to thy precious, bleeding side.

2. Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord,
by the power of grace divine;
let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
and my will be lost in thine.
[Refrain]

3. O the pure delight of a single hour
that before thy throne I spend,
when I kneel in prayer,
and with thee, my God,
I commune as friend with friend!
[Refrain]

4. There are depths of love
that I cannot know
till I cross the narrow sea;
there are heights of joy
that I may not reach
till I rest in peace with thee.
[Refrain]

"I Am Thine, O Lord" words by Fanny J. Crosby, 1875; music by William H. Doane, 1875; and both are in the public domain.

God Be with You till We Meet Again
United Methodist Hymnal #672

1. God be with you till we meet again;
by his counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain:

Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

2. God be with you till we meet again;
neath his wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again.
[Refrain]

3. God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put his arms unfailing round you;
God be with you till we meet again.
[Refrain]

4. God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threatening wave before
you;
God be with you till we meet again.
[Refrain]

"God Be with You till We Meet Again" words by Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880; music by William G. Tomer, 1880; and both are in the public domain.