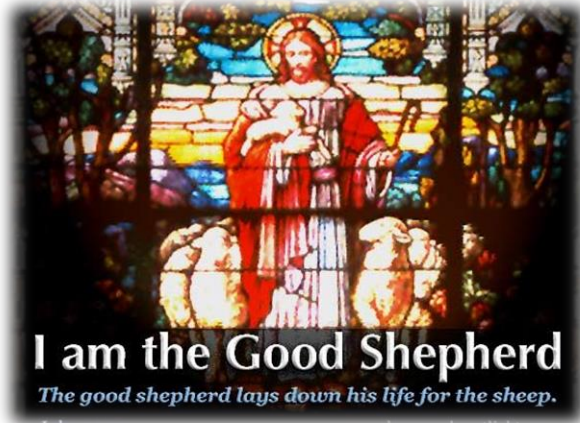


**Parishes of Stainton with Hemlington, Hilton
and Brookfield**
Easter 4 25th April 2021



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT HOME.

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The Acts of the Apostles. ch4.5-12

The Jewish rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.

When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick

and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

Psalm 23

**1 The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.**

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.**

The first letter of John. ch3.16-24

We know love by this, that the Son of God laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases God. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. ch10.11-18

Jesus said to the Pharisees:

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not

belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, we thank you for this powerful image of the shepherd and his sheep. Help us to listen to your voice. You lead us, let us follow. Help us as we pray now for ourselves in our need and for others in all kinds of need, some we know and love and others far away. Help us to listen and to hear your voice and to be led out by you, to believe, to serve and to trust in your goodness.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer.

Creator God, we pray for our complex world, for the fragile equation of rich and poor, of have and have not. We pray for the needy throughout the world. In your love and mercy, help us to feed and care for your lambs. We pray for all who are hungry, homeless, displaced. For the asylum seeker and refugee. For those whose home is a makeshift shelter. For the mother who cannot feed her children. For the parents who cannot find work. For those who hunger for justice, freedom and peace and all who work to make a safer world for us to live in.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

Lord, as you lead us to believe and trust in you, we pray for the Church. We give thanks for the blessings we find here and wherever Christians meet. For the opportunities we find to grow in faith. Bless and guide Claire our Vicar, Bishop Paul and all who minister in our neighbourhoods, in our Diocese and wherever Christians meet.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer.

Lord help us to tend your sheep
We ask for your blessing and healing for all who are sick, or suffering in any way, and your comfort for the bereaved, that they may find healing in minds and hearts, and strength in spirit. We pray for those who are depressed and despairing, lonely, or abused. We pray for those known to us in special need today.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer.

Loving God, we pray for those who have died and are now enfolded in the love and peace of your kingdom.

Lord Jesus, as you know the needs of each one of us, we ask that you hear our prayers today. Amen

You can come to God in many ways. I've lurched and stumbled into belief and bumped into God, not only in places set aside for that purpose, but also in places to which nice religious persons don't go. Rabbi Lionel Blue

I Am The Door Of The Sheepfold'

**Not one that's gently hinged or deftly hung,
Not like the ones you planed at Joseph's place,
Not like the well-oiled openings that swung
So easily for Pilate's practiced pace.**

**Not like the ones that closed in Mary's face
From house to house in brimming Bethlehem,
Not like the one that no man may assail,
The dreadful curtain, The forbidding veil
That waits your breaking in Jerusalem.**

**Not one you made but one you have become:
Load-bearing, balancing, a weighted beam
To bridge the gap, to bring us within reach
.Of your high pasture. Calling us by name,
You lay your body down across the breach,
Yourself the door that opens into home.**



New every morning is God's love to me.

In His creation His beauty I see.

Each flower that opens and bird on the wing
tell of His glory and His praises sing.

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