



Sunday 18th July 2021

Dear friends,

If you have the Internet, you will find a video to accompany this sheet on YouTube from Sunday morning – search for Isle of Man Methodist Church and you will find it on our YouTube channel.

Our prayers are with you all,

Isle of Man Methodist Staff Team

Opening Prayer

I come this day to worship You,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Open my heart, to receive Your love,
my soul to receive Your Spirit
and my mind to know to Your truth.
For Your glory.
Amen.

Hymn: StF 479 - The King of Love my Shepherd is

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below

1 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

- 2 Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.
- 5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)
CCLI 2421471

Let us pray together

Gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, mindful,
compassionate, constant, thank you for loving us
through every season of our lives.

Thank you for calling us into this new day, for calling
each of us by name, for calling us your children.

Gathered or scattered, you hold us together in love.

Speak to us now by your Holy Spirit, and as we read
your holy Word, have your way in our lives, and
assure us of your mercy, forgiveness, and love.

In the name of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Today's Readings:

Mark 6:30-34
Ps 23

Find a Bible and read the above passages. If you do
not have a Bible at home, ask your local minister who
will gladly source one for you.

A time of reflection

In Scripture, we find the concept of journeying is
often used to describe our moving through life, and
our spiritual journey of discipleship.

When it comes to these journeys, we're all faced at
times with decision about what direction to take:

decisions about what courses to take, decisions about
our job, what we do with our lives, decisions about
relationships, marriages, where we live – all these
kind of things as well as the kind of day-to-day
problems that we face at work, at home, and in our
communities.

God has provided us with directions for our life's
journey through the Bible – The Bible is our roadmap
through life, it helps us to know our general direction
and ultimate destination...

But that's not all He gives us - because He knows that
some of us are capable of getting lost even with all
the maps in the world to refer to, He sent for us His
Son to be our shepherd – the language used in the
Gospel reading of people being like sheep and Jesus
being a Shepherd is so familiar to us... and a direct

reference to the type of imagery we see in the Psalms and elsewhere of God himself shepherding His people, leading them on paths of righteousness.

Paths of righteousness sound nice don't they... comforting...welcoming...probably shaded and with a stream running past.

In the Holy Land today as you travel through the wilderness, you can catch sight of sheep-trails winding through the hills. But these trails that wander through the wilderness are barren and bare. No shade from the scorching sun, no stream being followed, no food for the sheep to graze....yet it is these trail that are, and were in Jesus' time, known as the Paths of Righteousness...not because they promise an easy journey, but because they go from one place of safety and food and water to another...

The journey may not always be pleasant –but it does lead to a place of great blessing if we follow the way of Christ – our Good Shepherd. He never promised that the Christian life would be easy – but He promises to always be with us, as our Shepherd, our Helper, and our Guide.

Hymn: StF 238 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
Sing/ Read /pray / the words below:

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee,
yet possessing every blessing
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;
all our weakness thou dost know,
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
tempted, taunted, yet undaunted,
through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy;
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

James Edmeston (1791-1867)

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Prayers of Intercession

Holy and gracious God, we pray for all who today are called by you to shepherd your flock. Grant them wisdom and vision in the leading of your people. We pray for those who are seeking out the straying and the lost, those who are offering new hope and courage to the despairing.

Faithful Shepherd,
hear us and guide us.

Give guidance to all who seek to guide or reconcile others; protect all who are working with divided peoples, all peace-keeping forces and those who seek to maintain and preserve just societies.

Faithful Shepherd,
hear us and guide us.

Be with all who are harassed and helpless, all who feel alienated or hostile, those like sheep without a shepherd. We remember all who have lost their way, and pray that all may know the love and care of the Good Shepherd.

Faithful Shepherd,
hear us and guide us.

We pray that Christ the Good Shepherd may come with His peace to all who are distressed or in pain. We lift up to Him now those known to us, both near and far away and ask that they may know the comfort of His presence, His healing, His mercy, and His love.

Faithful Shepherd,
hear us and guide us. Amen.

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 trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.*

A prayer of blessing

May the leading of the Good Shepherd bring you into ways of peace and light, protect you through the dark valley, and keep you in love and life eternal.
Amen.

