



8 MAY 2022



Welcome to worship

Welcome to church this morning, and happy Mothers' Day to all who mother within our community.

Lectionary Readings

This week May 8, 2022

Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

Next week May 15, 2022

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

New Minister

Following our congregation meeting last Sunday, we are pleased to advise that Gail Hinton has accepted our invitation to become our new minister. We anticipate Gail will begin with us in August.

Ukraine Appeal

Act For Peace, who also run the Christmas Bowl Appeal, have sent us envelopes for their Ukraine Crisis Emergency Appeal. The envelopes are on the back table. If you are interested in giving please place your gift in the envelope and place it in the offering.

Gifts are tax-deductible, just fill in your details on the envelope and we will forward them to Act for Peace.

This is a great opportunity to help those facing an enormous crisis not of their making, we encourage you to support them if you can.

You can donate until the end of the month.

Change to morning tea

Over recent weeks we have found that, with fewer people attending worship, we are not using at least half of the brewed coffee on Sunday mornings. Since it is not practical to make a smaller quantity, Church Council and Elders have decided to provide a choice of instant coffee instead to reduce waste and expense. We will still have brewed coffee on special occasions and will review our decision when numbers start to return to pre-covid levels.



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Safe in the Shepherds Hands John 10:22-30, Psalm 23

One of the most comforting and memorable images portrayed throughout the Old and New Testament Scriptures is the picture of the loving and protecting Shepherd and His faithful, following flock. The beautiful words of the 23rd Psalm come to mind, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want..." and again, "I am the good shepherd; I know My sheep and My sheep know Me... and I lay down My life for the sheep." (John 10:14)

Our text tells us that "Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade" when the Jews were celebrating Hanukkah, the Festival of Dedication.

At that time, the Jews questioned Jesus. They asked Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." (John 10:24) To which Jesus replied, equally direct, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in My Father's name speak for Me, but you do not believe because you are not My sheep. My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me." (John 10: 27) In other words, Jesus said, "It's not that that I haven't told you, rather, you have refused to listen to what I have said, and have refused to see what is plain for everyone to see!"

The prophets had long foretold the work of the Christ (the Messiah)... how He would be anointed by God to open the eyes of the blind; preach good news to the poor; bind up the brokenhearted; proclaim freedom to the captives; proclaim the Lord's favor; comfort those who mourn; and to give them a crown of beauty, the oil of gladness and a garment of praise. (See Isaiah 42: 7-9 and 61: 1-3) Many in the temple that day refused to see, listen and follow the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Likewise, there are many, today, who do not know, trust or follow the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Instead, they listen to and follow "other voices" which are calling for our attention; calling us to follow. But, if we know the Shepherd intimately, we can pick out His voice as He calls to us. He calls us to know Him, personally and intimately. Our trust in the voice of Christ is not our own natural possession. Our faith is a gift from God.

Jesus calls His faithful flock to be calm and confident in His almighty care. "My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of My hand. My Father who has given them to Me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of My Father's hand. The Father and I are One." (John 10: 27-30) We truly are, **"Safe In the Shepherd's Hands!"**

Pastor Snow - Holy Cross Lutheran Church Wichita