



Monday, April 23, 2012

READ- The Gospel: John 10:11-18

Jesus uses the metaphor of a shepherd and his flock to describe the relationship God seeks with us. The shepherd provides all the guidance, protection and provision that his sheep need – they can rely on him completely. He describes his sacrificial death on the cross as laying down his life for the sheep.

REFLECT-

- How much do you rely upon God to guide, protect, and provide for you and your family? Do you lift up all your needs, concerns and intercessions daily in prayer? The only way that we “sheep” can keep from going astray is to listen closely for the Shepherd’s voice.

PRAY-

O God, thank you for your loving care and all the ways you shepherd us in right paths. Amen.

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

READ- Acts of the Apostles: Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John begin to very publicly heal and preach the gospel of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection in the streets of Jerusalem. The religious authorities are disturbed by this, but they cannot help but acknowledge the amazing healing of a man whom everyone knew. They try to intimidate Peter and John into staying silent to no avail. They will not be silent.

REFLECT-

- Where in your life are you silent about your faith when you should be speaking up? Who do you know who needs to hear about Jesus Christ and what God has done for you?

PRAY-

O God, give me boldness of your Spirit to speak freely of your great love. Amen.

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

READ- The Epistle: I John 3:16-24

For the writer of I John, faith has “feet”. He tells his listeners that it’s not enough to say that you accept Jesus as your Savior and love him, but do nothing to help your neighbor who is in need. Your words must be backed up by actions of love and compassion. Obeying his commandment means first to “believe” and then to “love”.

REFLECT-

- If we are to truly be the Church that follows Jesus’ commands, we cannot just focus on our own comfort as Christians. We must actively seek out those who do not know Christ, share the good news with them, and care for the suffering and needy in our community and world. How can our church do those things more faithfully?

PRAY-

Father, show us avenues of witness and service and give us the courage and creativity to walk those paths to glorify you. Amen.

Thursday, April 26, 2012

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 23

The most familiar and beloved of all the psalms, this passage is a tremendous comfort in good times and in times of suffering. The image of God as our shepherd, always watching over us and never leaving us, gives us assurance of God’s abiding love for his people.

REFLECT-

- Read the psalm aloud, slowly enough to call to mind the images painted by the psalmist in each verse. Was there a time in your life when this passage gave you special comfort? What words of assurance in the psalm are most meaningful for you and why?

PRAY-

Lord, I thank you for the words of your holy scripture which help us to know you and to feel your love for us. Amen.

Friday, April 27, 2012

ACT-

Focus Verse: I John 3:17

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?

The people of our church congregation, by and large, are comfortable financially – some are wealthy by the standards of most people in our community. If we respond to Jesus’ commands, we cannot insulate ourselves in our comfortable homes and turn a blind eye to those around us who are suffering and in need. Jesus’ calls us to love him and the best way to do that is to share your material resources with those in need, find a way to serve in some caring ministry or outreach in this community – face time is important with folks who are different than us, yet equally loved by Jesus. How is God calling you to give and serve so that his Kingdom comes a little closer right here on earth?