



God is good... all the time...

## Opening Hymn: The King of Love my Shepherd is

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNnuM1Z8FzI&t=51s>

## Call to worship

“Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care.” (Psalm 95:6-7)

## Opening Prayer

Lord, we would follow you wherever you might lead.  
Lord, we would follow you. Forgive us when we stumble and when we stray. Forgive us when, distracted we lose our way. Be the one to whom we turn, whose hand we hold, the Shepherd who leads us safely to the fold. Lord, we would follow you wherever you might lead. Lord, we would follow you.

To the one who sits above the circle of the earth,  
To the one who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
To the one who spreads out a shelter for us to live in,  
We offer thanks and praise.

To the one who can overturn the rulers and powers,  
To the one who calls us each by name,  
To the everlasting God, Creator of the earth,  
We offer thanks and praise.

To the one who strengthens the powerless,  
To the one who helps us soar on wings like eagles,  
We offer thanks and praise.

Creator God, accept our thanks and praise, Amen.

(from The Weaver, the Word and Wisdom, Michaela Youngson)

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Matthew 6: 9-13 (NKJV)

## Psalm 23:1-3

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul. **He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.**

## Psalm 16:11

**You will make known to me the path of life;** in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

## Luke 15:3-7 – ‘The Parable of the Lost Sheep’

Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? **And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home.** Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent”.

## ‘Paths of righteousness’ by Halvor Ronning

**Reflection: ‘He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake’  
by Joby See – CCF Alabang,  
Muntinlupa, Philippines**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHDITVDo3zc>

DITVDo3zc



## Prayers for others:

Loving and Gracious God,  
We have heard in your Word that you care for us as a shepherd cares for the sheep, held safe in his loving arms.

At this moment in time we may feel anything but safe as the invisible and unexpected mugger called Coronavirus is still rampant throughout the world.

And so we pray for those trying hard to find a vaccine, and bring before you the World Health Organisation, governments and scientists trying to plot a safe path for us to follow through this global pandemic. We pray for the NHS staff and others who care for the sick, dying and grieving.

We pray for those who are hungry, who rely on foodbanks, and we bring before you all those who deliver food to the vulnerable. We pray for a fairer sharing of the earth's resources that no-one should suffer hunger.

We pray for those who are entangled in the briars of life and who struggle for freedom and justice. We bring before you those with money problems or in abusive relationships, where safety is hard to find. We pray for all those engaged in pastoral work, who listen to and pray for those in need.

In all our prayers, we remember and indeed give thanks for Jesus Christ, our gatekeeper, who watches over our going out and our coming in. Christ is the Good Shepherd who makes known to us the paths of life. Christ the King of Love is our Shepherd. His goodness never fails. We lack nothing if we are His, because He is ours forever. And may we gather again soon in His house to sing His praise. This we ask in His name, Amen.

**Reflection: 'He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake' by Joby See - CCF Alabang, Muntinlupa, Philippines**

We continue our series on Psalm 23, the Psalm of David. Remember he said in verse 1,

*The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul. He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*

Today, we focus on the second part of verse 3. The psalmist says, '**He guides me along the right paths for His name's sake**'. When sheep are left alone, they will naturally graze in the same hills until there is nothing left. That is why they need a loving shepherd to lead them to a good grazing area. We are so much like sheep! As humans, we deceive ourselves into thinking that our ways are the best ways - that we know what is right for us. There is a passage in the book of prophet Isaiah (53:6) which says,

*'all we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way.*

Our Good Loving Shepherd leads us to paths of righteousness. Notice that our Shepherd is not a **slave driver** but a **servant leader**. Our God does not push us from behind with a stick, saying 'go on and do this and do that'. No! He goes ahead of us and leads us - He shows us the way.

Our Lord leads us in the paths of righteousness. 'He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake'... Amen

"God uses all the wrong roads to get us to the right places," CS Lewis

**Closing Hymn: 'In Christ Alone my hope is found' by a South African Virtual Worship Choir**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEGOkBHttEg>

## Final blessings

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will. May He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen (Hebrews 13:20-21)

