

BECKENHAM METHODIST CHURCH

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Service: 3 May 2020

Rev. Jannet Mudavanhu

“Jesus is the Gate”



YouTube

Watch the recorded service on our [YouTube channel](#)

THEME: JESUS IS THE GATE
03/05/2020
BECKENHAM METHODIST CHURCH

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and loving God. We come before you this morning grateful for you have seen us this far. We are not sure how the journey ahead of us will play out but we trust that you will continue to walk with us strengthening along the way.

We bring before you all communities of faith engaging in worship through various ways, may your Holy Spirit help us to hear you speak to us. We also bring before you all those engaged in essential services, as they continue to fight covid 19 may you protect all. We also remember in prayer those who have returned to work this week including all school children as well as their teachers.

Give us strength and wisdom to keep looking out for one another in these challenging times. As we take time to worship you this morning, Lord we pray that you hear our prayers. In the name of Christ our Lord, we pray. **AMEN.**

HYMN

WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME

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

Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide

if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. **Amen**

LOOPY CHURCH WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT:

(Adapted from Bonnie Low's Hymn – I know someone who loves me)

I know someone who watches over me throughout the day.

I know someone who cares for me in every single way.

The Shepherd who will help me if I ever go astray

The Gate, that leads to true peace

Yes, I know someone, Jesus, is his name!

He is the Saviour.

He is the children's friend.

He is a very special person, whose love never ends.

Jesus, is his name.

Whenever I am lonely or sad,

Jesus comes to cheer me up and make my heart so glad.

He's got to be the nicest friend that I ever had.

Yes, I have this great friend, Jesus, is his name.

I know someone who watches over all of us:

JESUS IS HIS NAME!

BIBLE READING

John 10: 1-10

REFLECTION

THEME: JESUS IS THE GATE

Jesus was great at telling stories and explaining things using analogies and images that people around him could relate to, and the image he used in our story today is one of them. He likened himself to a gate for the sheep! I am the gate, he proclaimed. I can just imagine their puzzled faces on hearing this. But then, how is he the gate? And why would he choose

such an analogy to explain who he was to those who were around him including you and me?

Perhaps a brief background to the Palestinian way of life in this regard would shed some light. Verse 1 to 5 gives us a glimpse into the way of life for a shepherd in ancient Judea. In this context, sheep would stay the night together in the same pen and the pen only had one opening. This opening was the only way in and out – and at night, the shepherd lay across this opening keeping watch of all the sheep. And because the shepherd would be lying by the pen entrance, that meant if any sheep would have wished to come out, the only way to do so would have been across the shepherd's body and if any wolves or beasts wished to snatch sheep from the pen – the only way to do so would have been - cross the shepherd's body. So, the shepherds literally lied their lives for their flock. The sheep's safety and survival rested on the hands of the shepherds. However, each morning, the shepherds would call out their sheep by name as they take them out for pasture.

So, with this relatable figure of speech, Jesus summarised who he was – **the GATE FOR THE SHEEP.**

- 1) Like the Judean shepherds, He sacrificed his own life for our salvation. He literally laid his life on the cross not only protecting and saving us but also, He earned us the right to become children of God (*for all who received him, he gave them power to be called the children of God*). Therefore, Christ is the gate that connects us with God.
- 2) He is the gate to our peace and security, as he beckons us all: “Come to Me, all *you* who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Through him, we are assured of that peace that only him can give.

3) Just as the Judean Shepherds get their sheep's attention by calling them by name. Christ does the same to us as he reminds us: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he with Me." The challenge for us, (*I guess, just like the Palestinian sheep also had*), is to recognise his voice. Can we discern his voice when he communicates with us?

I think, just like the sheep in our story today, we can learn to recognise our shepherd's distinctive voice by hearing it repeatedly and frequently. The more time we spend with him the easier it is to identify his distinctive voice. We can practice listening for it in our quiet times, or when we are up and about 'gazing' with other 'flock'; or when we are here, there and everywhere. There is no shortage of opportunities to hear him calling us but we have a choice on how we choose to respond. Our first hymn was – WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW IF I CALL YOUR NAME? How have you responded to that question?

Our Lord Jesus Christ is calling us all to his sheepfold. Christ, **the Gate** is open for us to **GO IN** his secure pen and to **GO OUT** and find pasture. He is the protector and provider, so when we come to **THE GATE**, we are not only saved but we are also safe and secure. **In darkness, THE GATE is the entrance to a safe place, by day THE GATE is the entrance to green pastures!** JESUS IS THE GATE, through him we can experience life in its abundance and together with Paul we can say: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (*Philippians 4:13*) **Amen.**

HYMN
GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijytLs96yig>

Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you;
Beneath his wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.

*God will take care of you,
Through ev'ry day,
O'er all the way;
He will take care of you,
God will take care of you.*

Through days of toil when heart does fail,
God will take care of you;
When dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you.

Refrain

All you may need he will provide,
God will take care of you;
Nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you.

Refrain

No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you;
Lean, weary one, upon his breast,
God will take care of you.

Refrain

BENEDICTION

May Christ, THE GATE lead us to safety and Pasture. May His Peace, Joy and love remain with us always and see us through the week ahead. **Amen.**