

Discussion & Reflection Questions

Easter 4A - 30th of April 2023

Reading: John 10.1-10

¹ 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. Jesus is described as a shepherd and a gate in this passage but there are a number of metaphors that Jesus is described as in the gospels. Which one(s) do resonate most strongly for you?
2. A lot of art shows Jesus as a shepherd in calming situations with white woolly sheep. If Jesus is a shepherd & we are sheep what are some of the realities of these metaphors as Jesus interacts with us?
3. What does it mean that Jesus is the gate?
4. What difference does it make reading this passage in the light of the Easter story?
5. How does the world define an abundant life?
6. What is an abundant life in relationship with Jesus?
7. How do you feel about Psalm 23 & why do you think it still resonates so strongly with people? (It might be helpful to read Psalm 23)

Prayer:

God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep: send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with understanding; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.