



Sheep Wandering the Moors, Lewis Creighton (British 1918-1996).

October 19, 2025

Reflections

“Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.”

Dorothy Thrupp

“Not that I am (I think) in much danger of ceasing to believe in God. The real danger is of coming to believe such dreadful things about him. The conclusion I dread is not ‘So there’s no God after all,’ but ‘So this is what God’s really like. Deceive yourself no longer.’”

C.S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*

“I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.”

Ezekiel 34:15–16

Order of Worship

GATHERING

Abide With Me

Abide with me fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens Lord with me abide
When other helpers fail and comforts flee
Help of the helpless abide with me

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile
Thou hast not left me though I oft left Thee
On to the close Lord abide with me

I need Thy presence every passing hour
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be
Through cloud and sunshine abide with me

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight tears lose their bitterness
Where is thy sting death where grave thy victory
I triumph still abide with me

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies
Heav'n's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee
In life in death Lord abide with me

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down,
declares the Lord God.

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.

I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

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.

The Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

forever.

from Ezekiel 34, Psalm 23, Revelation 7

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who 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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Wonderful Merciful Savior

Wonderful merciful Savior

Precious Redeemer and Friend

Who would have thought that a Lamb could

Rescue the souls of men

Oh You rescue the souls of men

You are the One that we praise

You are the One we adore

You give the healing and grace our

Hearts always hunger for

Oh our hearts always hunger for

Counselor Comforter Keeper
Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost the way
Oh we hopelessly lost the way

Almighty infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh we're falling before Your throne

PRAISE SONG

He Leadeth Me

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters still, o'er troubled sea,
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me.

He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful foll'wer I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

Lord, I would place my hand in Thine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

And when my task on earth is done,
When by Thy grace the vict'ry's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me.

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, our great shepherd, you tenderly gather us as lambs, carrying us with your all-embracing love. Yet, like sheep, we wander from you: following our own ways, ignoring your voice, distrusting your provisions.

Forgive our stubborn rebellion, our hardened hearts, our lack of trust. Refresh us once again by your quiet waters of mercy and restore our souls by your redeeming love. Guide our paths, that we might follow you more closely. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:4-6

RENEWAL SONG

Nothing but the Blood

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know;
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

For my cleansing this I see:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my pardon this my plea:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone,
nothing but the blood of Jesus;

Naught of good that I have done;
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace:
nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

COVENANTS OF BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP (11:00)

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHILDREN DISMISSED

LIFE TOGETHER

PREACHING OF THE WORD

“That You May Believe: The Shepherd - The Good One!”

David Speakman

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

¹⁹ The Jews who heard these words were again divided. ²⁰ Many of them said, “He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?”

²¹ But others said, “These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

John 10:11-21

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

My Friends May You Grow in Grace

My friends, may you grow in grace
And in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.
My friends, may you grow in grace
And in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory!
Now and forever
Now and forever, Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

House of God Forever

God is my shepherd
I won't be wanting
I won't be wanting
He makes me rest in fields of green
With quiet streams
Even though I walk through the valley
Of death and dying
I will not fear 'cause You are with me
You are with me

Your shepherd's staff comforts me
You are my feast in the presence of enemies
Surely goodness will follow me
Follow me
In the house of God forever

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

COMMUNION SONG

Behold the Lamb

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us: and we remember:
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.

The body of our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
Torn for you: eat and remember
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,
Paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
Shed for you: drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace

Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith
We rise to respond: and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering,
We proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.

SENDING

SENDING SONG

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I can-not close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

BENEDICTION

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

LIFE TOGETHER

FAMILY UPDATES

Bless the Means family with a meal while Sara recovers: See Looking Up.

SERVE

Crayon Drive for Speas Elementary during the month of October! Bins by office.

Speas Elementary Reading Buddies opportunity details in Looking Up.

Backpack Packing Party - Nov. 2 3:15pm: Join us in the pavilion!

CHURCH LIFE

Fall Fest - Oct. 19 5:30-7pm: Dinner (BYOB), Live music + Games (costumes welcome).

Gathering Hour - Oct. 27 8-9pm: All women welcome to fellowship at Lot63.

First Wednesday Fellowship - Nov. 4 5:30-7pm: Dinner + Fellowship.

2026 Mission Trips Interest Meeting - Nov. 9 12:30pm (Lunch Included).

Church Directory Form - Complete form by Oct. 20: Link in Looking Up.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

Cry Room now open in Rm 107: Worship service is livestreamed here for families who need extra space or quiet during the service.

Communicants' Class - Nov 7 6:30-8pm & Nov 8 9-10:30am: 4th-5th grade; Register.

Progressive Friendsgiving - Nov. 23 5-7pm: Registration open to all youth.

Edge MS Conference - June 20-24: Save the date!

RYM HS Conference - Jul. 26-30: Save the date!

Kids Connection - *October Verse* - But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF OCTOBER 16TH, 2025

	Actual to Date	Budget through 10/31	Difference	
Income	\$1,014,867	\$1,081,685	-\$66,818	-6.18%
Expense	\$1,032,709	\$1,243,166	-\$210,456	-16.93%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$17,842	-\$161,481	\$143,639	

ANNUAL MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,482,783

Making Room for More	Campaign Goal	Campaign Commitments	Gifts Received
	\$8.6 million	\$5,224,302	\$2,813,941