

The Epistle Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

I AM THE
GOOD SHEPHERD

A reading from 1 John chapter 3 beginning at verse 16.

¹⁶ **We know what love is because Jesus Christ gave his life for us. So we should give our lives for our brothers and sisters.** ¹⁷ Suppose someone sees a brother or sister in need and is able to help them. And suppose that person doesn't take pity on these needy people. Then how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, don't just talk about love. Put your love into action. Then it will truly be love. ¹⁹ Here's how we know that we hold to the truth. And here's how we put our hearts at rest, knowing that God is watching. ²⁰ If our hearts judge us, we know that God is greater than our hearts. And he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not judge us, we can be bold with God. ²² And he will give us anything we ask. That's because we obey his commands. We do what pleases him. ²³ God has commanded us to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ. He has also commanded us to love one another. ²⁴ The one who obeys God's commands remains joined to him. And he remains joined to them. Here is how we know that God lives in us. We know it because of the Holy Spirit he gave us.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading: John 10:11-18

I AM THE
GOOD SHEPHERD

The Holy Gospel according to John chapter 10 beginning at verse 11.
Praise and Glory to God.

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired man is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when the hired man sees the wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired man. He does not care about the sheep.

¹⁴ **"I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me.** ¹⁵ They know me just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I give my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this sheep pen. I must bring them in too. They also will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I give up my life. But I will take it back again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me. I give it up myself. I have the authority to give it up. And I have the authority to take it back again. I received this command from my Father."

This is the Gospel of Christ. Praise to Christ, the Word.

I know My sheep
and My sheep
know Me..

..just as the Father knows Me
and I know the Father

John 10:14-15

Jesus

Do you really know Him?

CHURCH OF TE HEPARA PAI

Sunday 26 April 2015

Te Rātapu Tuawhā o te Aranga / 4th Sunday of Easter

JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

I AM The
GOOD SHEPHERD!

"I know my sheep,
and my sheep
know me."

[John 10:14]

JESUS the Good Shepherd

SENTENCE OF THE DAY:

"I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me."
(John 10:14)

COLLECT OF THE DAY – Let us pray:

○ God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Jesus is The Good Shepherd!

He knows the needs of His people.
He hears their cry for help.

He comforts,
He protects,
He guides,
He forgives,
He heals, and
He saves!

Will you be counted as one of His sheep?
Will you trust Him as Lord of your life?

Then let His ways be your ways.
Let happiness fill your words.
Let hopefulness be your guide.
Let His smile rest upon you.

For the Lord Jesus is the Good Shepherd!
He will lead you through the valley, and

You Shall Not Want!



JESUS the Good Shepherd

In the gospel passage for today from John 10, Jesus was talking to Jewish religious leaders who claimed to have a relationship with God and to know God but Jesus said that they actually did not. It was not because of their lack of head knowledge about God. Rather they did not personally know God. Because they did not know and accept the one with whom they were talking, Jesus. So Jesus said to them, **"I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me"** (Jn. 10:14). When Jesus said that he was the good shepherd, he was claiming to be God. When he said that he knows his sheep, he means that he knows and understands those who belong to him perfectly, including, of course, the fact that they actually belong to him. They came to belong to him when they turned away from sin and put trust in him by following him; and in this way came to know him. So Jesus is the good shepherd or God who knows and is known by all who turn away from sin and put trust in him by following him.

In contrast with shepherds like the Jewish religious leaders with whom Jesus was talking who do not really care about the sheep, Jesus also said that he was the good shepherd who gives his life for the sheep (Jn. 10:11). Out of love and compassion for us, Jesus died for us in order to pay off the debt for all our sins so that we might be forgiven, healed and restored to have eternal life, that is, saved when we turn away from sin and put trust in him risen from the dead by following him, that is, believe in him (Acts 4:12). When we do this, Jesus becomes our risen and living good shepherd who protects, guides and feeds us.

And we become his sheep, a people who belong to him and are growing to become more and more like him in character. This includes reflecting his good works as our good shepherd. Just as Jesus Christ gave his life for us, so we should give our lives for our brothers and sisters (1 Jn. 3:16). We may not have the opportunity to save a brother's life by dying in his place. Nevertheless we can and should do the next best thing, which is to support his life when he has needs (1 Jn. 3:17). When we give to a brother in need what might keep him alive, we have followed our good shepherd's example of self-sacrificing love. We should not just talk about love, but put our love into action. Then it will truly be love (1 Jn. 3:18).

We are fully known by Jesus Christ the good shepherd who also gave his life for us. He did not remain dead. He rose again from the dead and gave us eternal life. And now he is living within those who invited him into their heart when they turned away from sin and put trust in him risen from the dead by following him. Our good shepherd is always on our side. He deeply cares about each of us.

The pātai today are do you really personally know Jesus Christ the good shepherd? Have you had a personal experience with him? How you answer these pātai determines where you can expect to spend eternity. Your answers to these pātai will make all the difference between heaven and hell. If you know Jesus Christ the good shepherd, then you can rejoice in the fact that he will ever be with you and that he will ever watch over you. If you do not know him, then come to him right now and he will save your soul and place you in the flock of God.

In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit - amen.



The Reading from Acts: Acts 4:5-12



A reading from Acts chapter 4 beginning at verse 5.

⁵ The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas, the high priest, was there. So were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and other people in the high priest's family. ⁷ They had Peter and John brought to them. They wanted to question them. "By what power did you do this?" they asked. "And through whose name?"

⁸ Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit. He said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ Are you asking us to explain our actions today? Do you want to know why we were kind to a man who couldn't walk? Are you asking how he was healed? ¹⁰ Then listen to this, you and all the people of Israel! You nailed Jesus Christ of Nazareth to the cross. But God raised him from the dead. It is through Jesus' name that this man stands healed in front of you. ¹¹ Scripture says that Jesus is "the stone you builders did not accept. But it has become the most important stone of all." (Psalm 118:22)

¹² **You can't be saved by believing in anyone else. God has given people no other name under heaven that will save them."**

Let us all say together in te reo Māori the reading below from Acts chapter 4 beginning at verse 5. Kia pānui tātou.

⁵ Na i te aonga ake ka huihui o ratou rangatira, nga kaumatua, me nga karaipi ki Hiruharama, ⁶ ratou ko te tino tohunga, ko Anaha, ko Kaiapa, ko Hoani, ko Arehanara, me nga whanaunga katoa o te tohunga nui. ⁷ A, no ka whakaturia raua ki waenganui, ka ui ratou, tena koa te mana, te ingoa ranei, i meatia ai tenei e korua?

⁸ Katahi a Pita, ki tonu i te Wairua Tapu, ka mea ki a ratou, e nga rangatira o te iwi, e nga kaumatua, o Iharaira. ⁹ Mehemea ki te uiuia maua aiane mo te mahi pai i mahia ki te tangata hua, i peheatia taua tangata i ora ai; ¹⁰ kia mohio koutou katoa, me te iwi katoa o Iharaira, na te ingoa o Ihu Karaiti o Nahareta, i ripekatia na e koutou, i whakaarahia ra e te Atua i te hunga mate, nana tenei i tu ora ai i te koutou aroaro. ¹¹ Ko ia te kohatu i whakakahoretia na e koutou, e nga kaihangā, a kua meinga nei hei mo te kokonga.

¹² Kahore hoki he ora i tetahi atu: kahore hoki he ingoa ke atu i raro o te rangi kua homai ki nga tangata, e ora ai tatou.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.



HUI AMORANGI AGM
2015: FRIDAY, 08 MAY
TO SUNDAY, 10 MAY,
2015.

The Good Shepherd



Sacrifices for His Sheep!