

Outlook

*"The Lord is
my shepherd..."*

*... he anoints my
head with oil."*

Our Summer of Psalms continues today with what is probably the most familiar and popular of all the psalms, Psalm 23. This is the passage in which King David (who not only had a profound relationship with God but also spent his early years working on his father's sheep farm) declared,

"The Lord is my shepherd." One key idea in the psalm is how the shepherd anoints his sheep's head with oil. This anointing oil speaks of the work of the Holy Spirit. As we prepare to worship and learn together this morning, why not take a moment to invite the Holy Spirit to be at work in your life?



A Collect for this Week

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Psalm 23

A psalm of David.

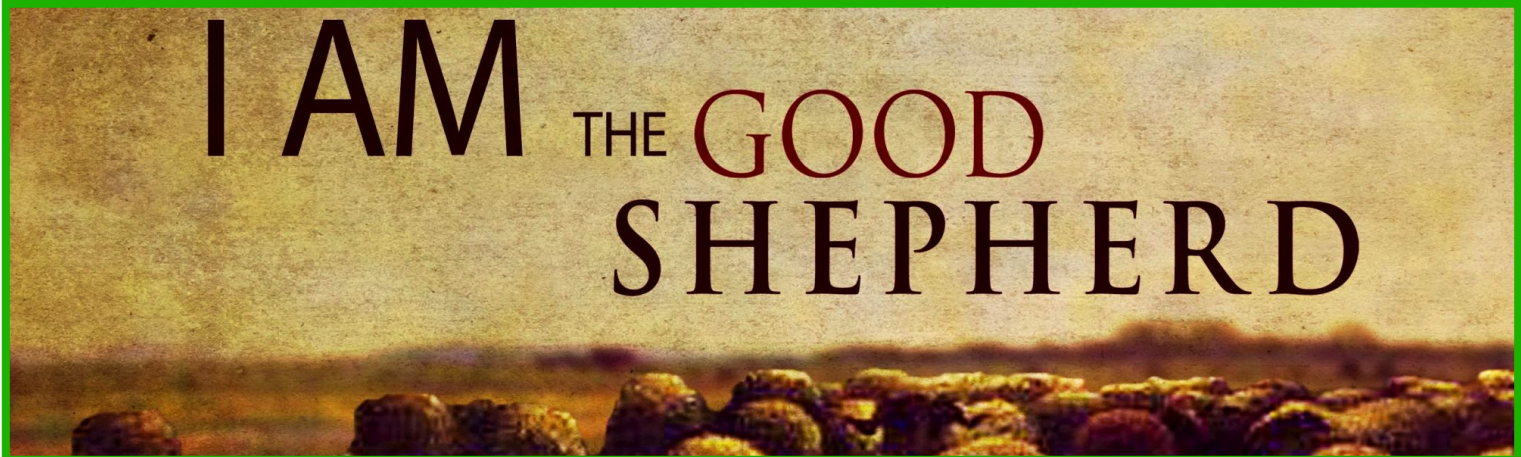
1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
 he leads me beside quiet waters,
3 he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
 for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk
 through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
 for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,
 they comfort me.
5 You prepare a table before me
 in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows.
6 Surely your goodness and love will
follow me
 all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the
Lord for ever.

John 10:11-18

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 sheepfold. 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.'



I AM THE GOOD
SHEPHERD

The Term Ahead



Not many of us will need to buy a new backpack ready for school but it's good to make all sorts of other plans for the term ahead. This is some of what we plan to do this term at Eastleigh Parish Church:

- * On Sunday mornings we'll be studying the book of **Philippians**. It'd would be great if we all read it through (*it's only 4 chapters long*) and made a list of questions and comments we might have from reading it.
- * Lots of us were really blessed by the Lent Course we ran earlier this year. The same people who published that course ("Christianity Explored") have also written a terrific 8-week course entitled "**Discipleship Explored.**" We'd love to invite **everyone** to join in with this course - which helps unpack Philippians. It will be run at 3 different times/venues through the week: Tuesday evenings, Wednesday afternoons, and, Wednesday evenings. Please **speak to Sue if you'd like to join in**, and she can direct you to the best group to suit you.
- * On Sunday 18th October we plan to fill the baptism pool in readiness to baptise 3 very keen candidates! Speak to Ian if:
 - You've **not been baptised before** and would now like to be, or;
 - If you've **already been baptised** and would like to take this opportunity to **reaffirm** you baptismal vows (perhaps if you've recently recommitted to following Jesus after a season away from him).

Afternoon Tea at the Vicarage: *Who will you invite?*



Join us for an afternoon of food & fun in the Vicarage Garden (1 Cedar Rd. SO50 9NR) from **3:00 to 5:00pm on Sunday 30th August**. Everyone is invited, and we'd warmly encourage you to invite a friend or family member to join you. If possible, please bring a deckchair with you.



A Prayer for the Term Ahead

Our Father, we pray that every member of this parish church would come to know and trust you more deeply in the months ahead. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Some Dates for the Term Ahead

- * 3:00-5:00pm **Sunday 30th August** afternoon tea at the Vicarage
- * **4th October** 10:30am joint service for Harvest Festival / Feast of Tabernacles, followed by Harvest Lunch
- * **18th October** full-immersion baptisms at both 9:30 & 11:00 services AND visit to Eastleigh Parish by Bishop Philip, Bishop of Winchester
- * 10:00am **Saturday 7th November** Friends of African Nursing coffee morning

Do You Have a Story to Share?



Many of us have been aware of God at work in lives in recent months. If you have a story to share of what he's been doing, we'd love to hear about it! You could send Ian an email or share it with him/Sue over a coffee.

Keep in Touch



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I AM THE
GOOD SHEPHERD;
I KNOW MY
SHEEP AND MY
SHEEP KNOW ME.

John 10:14

