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| **SERMON NOTES Sunday 12th April** |
|  **SunnySide** |

**Easter Sunday**

**Bible passages: Psalm 23, John 10.1-10**

**Introduction**

* Images of shepherds

**What does a good shepherd do?**

* Knows each sheep
* Leads the flock
* Stays with the flock

**What do sheep do?**

* Follow the shepherd
* Listen to the shepherd’s voice

**Why shepherds and sheep?**

* Outline of context – chapter 9
* Familiar symbolism of shepherd as leader

**I am the gate for the sheep**

* Closed gate for safety
* Open gate leads to fullness of life

**The shepherd’s call**

* To abundant, overflowing, vital, meaningful life
* Being and doing what we were created for

**Conclusion**

* Our response to the shepherd’s call

**Some questions for discussion**

1. Read John 10.1-10, what new thing strikes you about this passage?
2. The good shepherd calls us by name. He knows each one of us intimately, he guides us and provides for us. He seeks us out and draws us back to him when we are lost, his love for us is unconditional and unceasing. How have you experienced the good shepherd in your life?
3. Jesus identifies his sheep as being those who hear his voice
What does this mean for you? How do you listen to the voice of Jesus?
4. How easily do you hear Jesus’ voice? Does it ever get drowned out by other voices? What things distract you from listening for him?
5. What do you think God might be calling you to in this season? What will you do to respond to his call?
6. What does ‘life to the full’ in v.10 mean to you?
7. Psalm 23 is very familiar to most of us. Read it now, does the passage from John 10 change the way you understand Psalm 23?

I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.

John 10.10

Why not spend some time praising God for all he has done for you through Jesus this week.

Revd Hilary Kemp