

# SERMON NOTES 26 April 2026

## Sunnyside Church

### Questions for Discussion

Read Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18

1. Read Psalm 23. What does this Psalm say to us about the LORD caring for his people.
2. In John 10 what warnings are there given to us about “false” shepherds. How can we spot them?
3. Jesus says twice in this passage “I am the gate” . What does he mean by this?
4. What are the qualities of the good shepherd we are called to follow?
5. “I have other sheep who are not of this sheep pen” Who are these other sheep?
6. There is “one flock, one shepherd” How true is this today for the worldwide church?

### Main Points of the sermon

Three experiences from the past

1. A flock of sheep escaped. It was only after the shepherd appeared that they were rounded up
2. In 1991 I was staying on the Jerusalem/Bethlehem border. Every evening we saw a shepherd leading his flock of sheep to find pasture and a place to stay for the night. It was just like biblical times. Across these same fields the young David would have looked after his sheep 3,000 years ago.
3. A few years ago in the Lake District I saw what must have been thousands of sheep being driven down off the hills for shearing and no doubt medical and other checks. The modern shepherd was still caring for his sheep even though he would not know them individually. The local church whether large or small still has to care pastorally for her people

In John 10 we read that Jesus is the gate to the sheepfold, “whoever enters through the gate will be saved (v.7). We also read “Jesus is the good shepherd”. Like every good shepherd he does not go away when there is danger (v. 12,13) He knows his sheep (v. 14) He must not be exclusive (v, 16)

We need to be inclusive especially in matters of denomination, race, colour or sex. There is “one flock and one shepherd”. In v16 the emphasis is on “one”. However divided we might be we are still “one” in Jesus Christ, the good shepherd

John Kirkby