



Welcome to this ZOOM Family service

Led by Revd Natasha Brady

Notices can be found on your [Friday Email](#), on our [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). At the end of the service sheet, are your Roots at Home & Activity Sheets.

A community of care

Have a piece of paper and a pen/pencil ready, as we meet together and remember all those who care for us or our community.

Opening Prayer

Come, sheep, and gather: let us flock together.
Come, sheep, and gather: in the shelter of the shepherd –
nurtured and protected, guided and known.
Come, sheep, and gather: in the shepherd's embrace.
Come, sheep, and gather: let us listen to his voice.

Amen

Song Rejoice

Performed by Seth Price, Logan Williams, Brittany, Brandon Hurlbert and Tim Packer, St Nic's Church, Durham. Mixed by Logan Williams, video by Tim Packer, used Words and Music by Dustin Kensrue and Stuart Townend © 2013 Dead Bird Theology, Townend Songs, We Are Younger We Are Faster Music

Confession

'Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own (quietly or silently say your own name) and my own (say your name again) know me".

After a period of reflection

**Lord Jesus, our good shepherd
please forgive us where we have not listened to your voice
and have thought, said and done things that have been wrong.
Lord have mercy**

**Please forgive us where we have followed the crowd rather than following you.
Christ have mercy**

**Please forgive us where we have been stubborn,
wanting to go our own way instead of going your way.
Lord have mercy**

Thank you Jesus that as our good shepherd
you laid down your life so that we might be forgiven.
We receive your forgiveness today.
Amen.

Reading John 10.11-18 read to us by Judy Giles

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.'

Sermon. Natasha is opening God's Word for us today

Response: A 'good shepherd' meditation.

The 'good shepherd' is here; you are his beloved sheep.

Listen to his voice – he says...

I know my sheep. I know you.

I know you on the outside, and I cherish what I see.

I know you on the inside.

...when you are fearful or anxious, and I long to give you peace.

...when you are vulnerable, and I long to protect you.

...when you are confused, and I long to lead you.

...when you are lost, and I long to find you.

...when you are happy, and I rejoice with you.

I am the 'good shepherd' – come and find pasture.

Song Be still for the presence of the Lord

Written by David Evans. Performed by Martin Smith, Jake Isaac & Lucy Grimble; GloworksTV and used with their kind permission.

Intercession prepared and read to us by Deb Whittaker.

Response: For in you O Lord

Do we put our trust

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
Raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
That we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you
In the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Song Who you say I am

Songwriters: Reuben Timothy Morgan / Benjamin David Fielding, Who You Say I Am lyrics © Hillsong Publishing. Performed by Playback Media. Used with kind permission from WorshipHouseMedia.com under license.

Final Prayer

Lord, when we feel lost and confused...

Help us to follow the 'good shepherd'.

When we are tired by caring for others...

Help us to follow the 'good shepherd'.

When we're tempted by the wolves...

Help us to follow the 'good shepherd'.

When we're enjoying good pasture and rest...

Help us to follow the 'good shepherd'.

Send us out to be faithful sheep and...

Help us to follow the 'good shepherd'.

Amen.

Thank you for joining us today.

Quick Note The Church office will be open Monday & Thursday 10am – 1pm, other days please email office@stokepogeschurch.org or phone 01753 642331.



The cost of care

John 10.11-18

A 'monologue' where Jesus describes himself as a good shepherd. To explain how far his care for the sheep extends, he contrasts the way a good shepherd behaves with that of a hired hand, who when faced with danger like a wolf will run away and abandon the sheep to their fate. The good shepherd does not run away, rather he stays and faces the danger even when that costs him his life.

Now read **John 10.11-18** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

This is a striking image of God's powerful love for his children. The image of a shepherd reaches back into Old Testament metaphors for kingship, and by describing how the good shepherd would lay down his life for the sheep. The passage also describes the way the shepherd knows his sheep. How do you relate to this description?



Do you see Jesus as your shepherd? How does it feel to be known by the good shepherd?

WATCH

Enjoy watching a few episodes of *Shaun the Sheep* (on BBC iPlayer). Talk or think about how Shaun's life might be different if he had a good shepherd.

Or instead watch a short clip of a modern-day shepherd' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Coq_grSFINS.

Think about how this image relates to the one Jesus paints in the Gospel of John.



You will need: yogurt pots, wooden pegs (four per sheep), cotton wool balls, glue, black paper, scissors, black felt tips. (Alternatively, go on a walk and look at a real flock of sheep.)

Craft your own flock of sheep.

- Colour the tip of each peg black then use glue to attach four to an upside-down yogurt pot. These form the legs for your sheep, with the tips pointing downwards to look like four hooves.
- Put glue all over the pot (now the body of the sheep) and cover with cotton wool balls. Cut out some ears, a tail and a face from the black paper and stick them onto the body.

Use your sheep to reflect on the different 'sheep' in your family, church or community and how God cares for each of them.

?? ? ? ? ? ? ? GUESSING GAME

The good shepherd knows his sheep. Play a game to see if you can identify each other as sheep. Appoint one person to be the guesser and either blindfold them, or if you're on a video call, get them to turn away from the screen. Quietly move if you're in the same room so the guesser doesn't know who's sitting where. Everyone else should start making sheep noises. The idea is for the guesser to try and work out who is making which sheep noise. See how realistic you can sound!

CARE PACKAGE



By comparing himself to a good shepherd, Jesus is explaining to the disciples how much he cares for his followers. Make a care package for someone in need, containing food items and/or toiletries. Donate this to a friend, neighbour or through a local charity or Foodbank.

Pray

Devise four short prayers that start with the letters C, A, R, E and are about the need to look after others. Use your prayers during the week to think about what it means to care. Each morning, ask God to give you a chance to show care for someone else during the day.

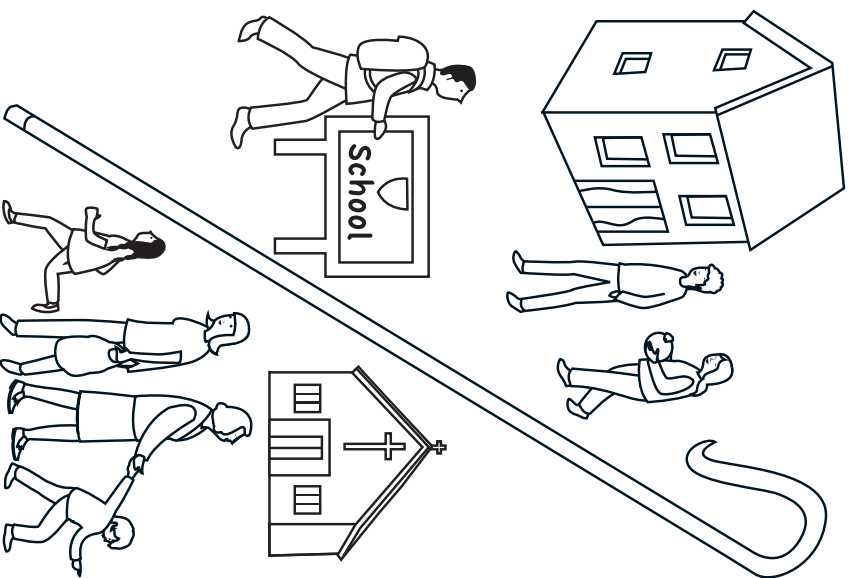
Name _____

ROOTS Activity Sheet

25 April – 1 May 2021

John 10.11-18

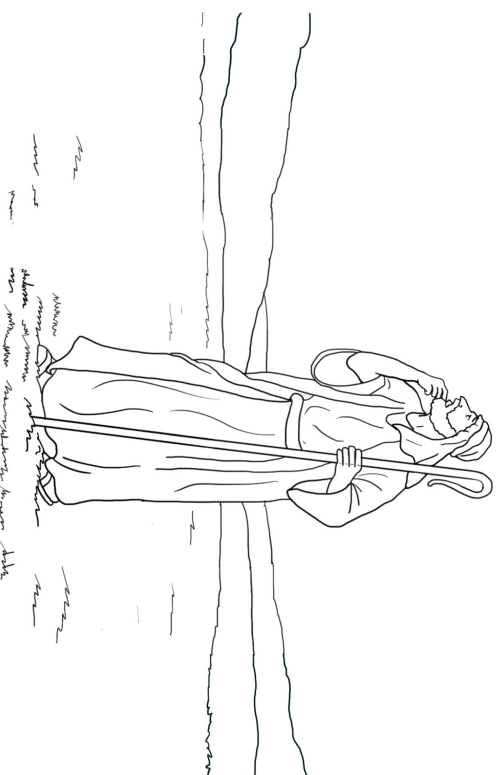
Jesus explains how much he cares for his followers – like a shepherd who looks after his flock of sheep.



How do we care for one another in our communities?



The shepherd is looking for his flock of sheep. Can you draw the sheep to finish the picture? Finish by colouring it in.



Use the decoder to find three different ways to describe caring.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

16, 18, 15, 20, 5, 3, 20

7, 21, 1, 18, 4

12, 15, 15, 11 1, 6, 20, 5, 18



Turn the word wolf into another word from today's passage by following the clues and changing one letter at a time.

Wolf	An animal who chases sheep.
	A sport you play with clubs. Involves a long walk and bunkers!
	A very precious metal often used for wedding rings.
	The type of shepherd which Jesus describes himself as.