

## Call to Prayer 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020 @ 7pm

In these challenging days: Is there anyone watching over us who really understands who we are and what we are experiencing at this time?

The imagery of the Lord as Shepherd and of Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd is woven into the heart of Scripture. The resonance of the ancient, yet immediately present, words of the Psalmist can be sensed, such that even now we can hear those words in the very depths of our being: 'The Lord is my Shepherd...Even though I walk through the darkest valley...Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me'. (Psalm 23) The imagery is taken up in the Gospel of John where the Good Shepherd watches over us and calls us by our name. He does so because he knows us and knows what we are experiencing at this time.(John 10)

Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd' and so **we pray**:

Good Shepherd, watch over us today  
In all we face and experience.  
Never leave us or forsake us  
And journey with us always.  
Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Good Shepherd, you know us  
As no-one else knows us.  
Guard us and keep us,  
As you guard and keep those whom we love.  
Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Good Shepherd, we pray for the sick and the lonely;  
For the anxious and the bereaved;  
For those whose pain is beyond our comprehension.  
We stand with them and commend them to your care.  
Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Good Shepherd, we pray for the carers in hospitals and in homes  
And for all who serve the needs of others.  
May the example of living compassion  
Inspire us in our care for others.  
Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Good Shepherd, you know the depths of our heart  
And the fears which are ours.  
Speak into the depths of our heart  
And calm our fears.  
Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Good Shepherd, you know us by our name  
And our identity is not hidden from you.  
Gather us to yourself as a Shepherd gathers the sheep,  
That we might know your Name.  
Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

