Worship

Please join in the words in bold

Opening Prayer

Good Shepherd, you have gathered us in this place with our joys and concerns, with our strengths and weaknesses in our wholeness and brokenness, individuals yet one flock, drawn to you in worship.

In this place we are gathered to share and learn together, to build up one another,

committing ourselves to you as we follow the lead of our Shepherd. We long to hear your voice today.

Response

From the beginning of creation, in each generation, your love has called us into being.
From dawn's first rays till evening's close, your love enfolds us and sustains us.

From our scattered and varied lives, your love has drawn us here today. In our meeting, our listening and our giving of ourselves, your love will guide us through this day. And in the days and weeks to come, your love will lead us out to your work in the field.

Let us worship our God as one!

Song

Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God.
Come.

One day every tongue will confess You are God, one day every knee will bow. Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose You now. Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God.
Come.

One day every tongue will confess You are God, one day every knee will bow. Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose You now. Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God.
Come.

Reading: John 10:11-18 (GNT)

11 "I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep. 12 When the hired man, who is not a shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees a wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away; so the wolf snatches the sheep and scatters them.

¹³ The hired man runs away because he is only a hired man and does not care about the sheep. 14-¹⁵ I am the good shepherd. As the Father knows me and I know the Father, in the same way I know my sheep and they know me. And I am willing to die for them.

¹⁶ There are other sheep which belong to me that are not in this sheep pen. I must bring them, too; they will listen to my voice, and they will become[a] one flock with one shepherd.

¹⁷ "The Father loves me because I am willing to give up my life, in order that I may receive it back again. 18 No one takes my life away from me. I give it up of my own free will. I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it back. This is what my Father has commanded me to do."

Praise

Good Shepherd,
we lack nothing
when we follow your word
and your Way.

You know our names, our needs, the loads we bear.

By your grace,
You find us where we are,
and lead us to quiet waters
and greener pasture.

For your love, compassion, mercy and grace, Good Shepherd, we bring you this offering of praise. **Amen**

Song

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want. He makes me lie in pastures green. He leads me by the still, still waters, His goodness restores my soul.

And I will trust in You alone.

And I will trust in You alone,
for Your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness, and He anoints my head with oil, and my cup, it overflows with joy, I feast on His pure delights.

And I will trust in You alone.

And I will trust in You alone,
for Your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
for You are with me,
and Your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.

And I will trust in You alone.

And I will trust in You alone,
for Your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.

Closing Prayer

Good Shepherd,
you call us by name
and speak to our innermost hearts,
more deeply than our conscious thought.

Something in us knows your voice, sparks in recognition and responds. Ready us to make your call known all around us.

Keep us listening for your Living Word.
In our stillness, help us listen.
In our busyness, help us listen.
For your grace, help us listen.

Inspire us to go and make disciples of those we meet.

Ready us to guide your other sheep to the fold.

Blessing

May this be a day of giving and receiving, of kind words and blessing.

May this be a day of friendship and truthfulness, of honesty and openness.

May this be a day of knowing God's love afresh, and bringing a smile to God's face as we follow the lead of our Shepherd.

Amen