

St. Margaret's Church, Dunham Massey
Prayers for the 4th Sunday of Easter

The reading in the St. Margaret's on-line service this week is from St. John's Gospel, Chapter 10 and verses 1 – 10 'the Good Shepherd' and our intercessions will centre around that reading.

The response to my bidding 'We pray to the Lord' is 'Lord hear our prayer'.

Let us pray:

Just as we know the voice of the Good Shepherd, we trust that God knows our voices and responds to our prayers, so we gather together our needs and the needs of the world.

For those who shepherd the Church, especially our bishops, priests and lay ministers, and all who lead us in faith.

We pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.

For nations at war, and for all people affected by violence, that leaders may find a way to bring justice and peace to their lands.

We pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.

For those who respond to the voice of the Good Shepherd calling them to help guide the flock; for ordained and lay vocations among God's people.

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We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have suffered physical, mental, or emotional trauma, that they may find relief and comfort, especially during this time of crisis.

We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have wandered far from the fold, that they may hear the voice of the Good Shepherd and be open to responding in hope and wonder.

We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who are on the frontlines of this COVID-19 pandemic, especially our health care workers and first responders; for all who are unable to stay at home,

but must work to provide for their families, may God continue to protect them and keep them in good health.

We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

That all of us gathered in our homes, or wherever we are, who are sharing in these intercessions, may know the peace of the Lord that banishes all fear.

We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

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For those who are sick, may the risen Christ visit them with healing power and new hope. For those who have died; May they live forever with Christ in the glory of the resurrection. For those left behind, may they find comfort in your sustaining and everlasting love. We pray especially today for the families of Janice Stevens and Ruth Kent, whose funerals have taken place this week.

We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts. (a moment or two for our own prayers for the things we are worried about or those we care about)

We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving God, hear the prayer of your people. Often we go astray, like sheep without a shepherd. Call us back to you through the words of your Son, the Good Shepherd, who shows us the way to eternal life with you. We ask this in his name who is Lord forever and ever. **Amen.**

Let us end our prayers by saying together the Grace:

May the Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore, Amen.

Every blessing,
Christine Armstrong

3rd May 2020