

## Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Week: 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Old Testament:** Genesis 7: 1-5,11-18

**Psalm:** Psalm 23

**New Testament:** Acts 4: 5-12

**Gospel:** John 10: 11-18

### **Reflection on the Gospel reading, by The Ven. Patrick Evans.**

Today's Gospel 'I am the Good Shepherd,' one of the great 'I am' sayings of St John's Gospel, is well loved.

Jesus distinguishes between the faithful shepherd who is dedicated and the hireling who is just there to do a job without any sense of long term bonding with the sheep. Jesus tells us he knows and calls us by name. The promise that we have a trustworthy shepherd who will lead us beside still waters and through darker days. Love that will not let us go and the call to follow his well trodden pathways.

He tells us too that he is prepared to lay down his life.....and these are not just words for we have seen the Word in action on a cross in obedience to his father and in his love for humanity. The shepherd who gives all.

We are reminded about false shepherds who cannot be relied on. Deceptive voices even that confuse us or lead us astray. These voices surround us in every generation.

The flock is the human race not some exclusive little group. The good shepherd knows his sheep, and the heart of the Easter faith is that we are never alone and that he is calling us and everyone to find our place in the flock and to be builders and healers for the common good

The voice is from beyond us, from the heart of the universe, from the depths of our inmost being, a voice that reminds us if we will trust ourselves to him he will set free within us the living water, fresh bread and the best wine.

### **Collect for Fourth Sunday of Easter**

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.

### **Worship to enjoy at home**

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am, Sunday Worship; Songs of Praise

BBC1 1.15pm

**A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England.** This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.

