

Good Shepherd Sunday
May 3, 2020
Pastoral Prayers
By Zac Koons

Caring God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the shepherd of your Church, we often think that being in this sheepfold means that we will be safe, but a virus has broken in to steal and kill and destroy—and we are afraid. Defend us your sheep, even though we stray after the voices of strangers, even though we look for pastures greener than the ones you provide, chase after us and find us, for we are in the valley of the shadow of death, and we are lost without your leadership and love, in Jesus' name, **Amen**.

Revealing God, in your Son Jesus Christ we hear what your eternal voice sounds like, give wisdom to all people to hear the difference between voices of truth and falsehood, between voices speaking up on behalf of all and voices speaking up on behalf of themselves, between voices of good shepherds and those of thieves or bandits. Give courage and compassion to those who lead and make decisions on our behalf that they may follow in the example of your Son, our servant leader; and through time bend every voice in every tongue, tribe, and nation to the praise of your Name, **Amen**.

Gathering God, we your sheep find it easier to follow you when we are together, and we are not accustomed to being scattered as we are right now, so speak loudly to those of us who feel lost, speak tenderly to those of us who are suffering, speak peacefully to those who are frantic, that we may hear you when you call us each by name, that we may be comforted to know that even isolated sheep share the same shepherd, that we may even now experience the abundant life that you offer to all, in Jesus' name, **Amen**.

We commend to your mercy those whose lives have been stolen from us, including _____. Recognize, we beseech you, lambs of your own flock, and sheep of your own fold, that they may this day know the loving embrace of the good shepherd. Amen.

We rejoice in the example of your saints who have gone before us, those in whose life we see proof that the way of Jesus is the way of life. Amen.