



Outline for Prayer Breakfast Saturday 9th January 2021

led by Margaret and Tony Harper

As we finish breakfast, let's take a moment to settle, and become aware that God is with us.....

Jesus the Good Shepherd

Christmas and Epiphany are very much about the coming to fruition of ancient promises given long before Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem, long before wise men from the east followed the star to the baby born to be King.....

Those who studied the Old Testament knew that one such promise was that the Shepherd King, the Messiah, would be born in Bethlehem.....

“But you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel. (Micah 5:2 and Matthew 2:6)

As we continue in the season of Epiphany, let's keep in mind the ancient promises that lay behind the coming of the Lord Jesus. Such promises indicate just who Jesus was and is..... Shepherd-King to all who welcome him, the world over. Jesus himself could not speak more clearly when he said:

“I am the good shepherd.” (John's Gospel 10:11).

He would go on to be the Good Shepherd who gave his life for the sheep. (John's Gospel 10:11 and 15).

What does a good shepherd do?

1. He provides for his sheep.
2. He guides his sheep.
3. He protects his sheep.
4. He helps the sheep stay close to him.
5. He looks for lost sheep and brings them home.

These thoughts can help us as we pray together today. Pray simply, in your own words.



1. The Good Shepherd is our Provider



Let's take time to think of people in need today.....Perhaps in need of friendship....or in need of the basics of life, such as food or shelter..... in need of work.... or healing.....or hope....Have a look at the news – who needs your prayers today? *Pray that they too will ask the Lord Jesus for his help....*

2. The Good Shepherd is our Guide



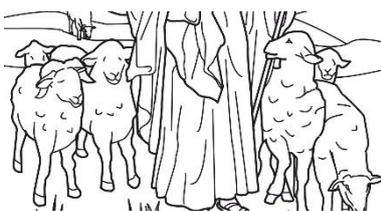
Allow the Holy Spirit to guide your prayers.....Who might need God's guidance today? Perhaps someone who has lost their way in life.....or someone you know who has a decision to make..... Perhaps you could pray for the government.....Or for leaders of our local schools.....You might pray for refugees, like Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, looking for a safe place to settle..... Whoever is on your heart, *pray that they too will ask the Lord Jesus for his help....*

3. The Good Shepherd is our Protector



Who is in need of protection today? Again, the daily news may be your starting point.....Perhaps those who are not safe at home, or on the streets.....Perhaps those living in a war-torn part of the world.....or a follower of the Lord Jesus who is at risk of being persecuted for their faith.....*Pray that they too will ask the Lord Jesus for his help.....*

4. The Good Shepherd calls us to stay close to him



We pray this for ourselves....for one another.....For our mission partners.....and for the other churches in our area.....Pray that we may keep our eyes fixed on the Lord Jesus, staying close to him, spending time in his word, meeting with him in prayer day by day.....and following him..... *We ask the Lord Jesus for his help.*

5. The Good Shepherd looks for lost sheep, and calls us to work with him



How can we work with Jesus to find those who are far away from him at present? Who might you pray for? What might God be asking of the Good Shepherd church? As the church looks to the future.....*We ask the Lord Jesus for his help.*

A prayer for us to say together, "May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore, Amen.