

Evensong 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Looking at the five words - The Lord is my Shepherd

**The** - The Manchester Museum – the only one God is The Only One

**Lord** - Heb. Jehovah, has been rendered in the English Bible LORD, printed in small capitals. This is the proper name of the God of the Hebrews. God wants us to let Him be the Lord of our lives, the one to whom we turn in all circumstances, the one from whom we derive our very being.

He - the creator of the Universe wants us to acknowledge His reign over every aspect of our lives because He LOVES us not because he wants to control us! How amazing is that?

**Is** - This small word reminds us that our Lord is always with us - He's not a was God, or a maybe God in the future, He **IS**, God - Continuous present tense. This why He calls Himself I AM, not I will, I was or I maybe,

In times of trouble I think on this small word and thank God that He **is** always with me in all things

**My** - we pray Our Father, we say in the creed **we** believe in God, but here we read **My** Shepherd

– again, so personal , so intimate, so full of love and compassion for our lives, NO rather for my life, for your life, for your joys and sorrows and for mine.

**Shepherd** - John Chapter 10 tells us so much about Jesus as our Shepherd –

John 10 The Message (MSG)

He Calls His Sheep by Name

10 1-5 “Let me set this before you as plainly as I can. If a person climbs over or through the fence of a sheep pen instead of going through the gate, you know he’s up to no good—a sheep rustler! The

shepherd walks right up to the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate to him and the sheep recognize his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he gets them all out, he leads them and they follow because they are familiar with his voice. They won’t follow a stranger’s voice but will scatter because they aren’t used to the sound of it.”

6-10 Jesus told this simple story, but they had no idea what he was talking about. So he tried again. “I’ll be explicit, then. **I am** the Gate for the sheep. All those others are up to no good—sheep stealers, every one of them. But the sheep didn’t listen to them. **I am the Gate**. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and

eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.

11-13 **“I am the Good Shepherd.** The Good Shepherd puts the sheep before himself, sacrifices himself if necessary. A hired man is not a real shepherd. The sheep mean nothing to him. He sees a wolf come and runs for it, leaving the sheep to be ravaged and scattered by the wolf. He’s only in it for the money. The sheep don’t matter to him.

14-18 **“I am the Good Shepherd.** I know my own sheep and my own sheep know me. In the same way, the Father knows me and I know the Father. I put the sheep before myself, sacrificing myself if necessary. You need to know that I have other sheep in addition to those in this pen. I need to gather and bring them, too. They’ll also recognize my voice. Then it will be one flock, one

Shepherd. This is why the Father loves me: because I freely lay down my life. And so I am free to take it up again. No one takes it from me. I lay it down of my own free will. I have the right to lay it down; I also have the right to take it up again. I received this authority personally from my Father.”

I don’t think we fully realise the enormous power of the Cross, at the moment of His death, the temple curtain to the Holy of Holies was torn asunder and for the first time since Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden, human beings had direct access to Almighty God; Jesus death has set us free from the power of death, His resurrection

and ascension into Heaven opens the gates to His Kingdom now.

HE is everything we need may we remember and acknowledge Him in all aspects of our lives.

Amen