

Preview for Service of Word and Sacrament, October 11 , 2026
Ordinary Time
Liturgical Color: Green
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Tiburon, California

Visit the church website: www.wpctiburon.org, 415-383-5272
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This weekly study guide seeks to help members, friends, and visitors prepare for the upcoming Sunday service and teaching.



Call to Worship

One: God's voice is calling

Many: Listen for your name.

One: God is searching.

Many: Don't run or be afraid.

One: God has swung wide the gates.

Many: Let us enter with thanksgiving in our hearts.

Community Prayer (10:00)

You are the Good Shepherd, and we are safe in your care. You know our names and you want our wellbeing. We trust in you. Even though we try and stay close, sometimes we wander off. We get lost. We even run away. Call to us and we will come. Search for us so that we may be found. Grant us safekeeping that we might safely welcome others in. Amen.

Sermon Focus & Title God the Good Shepherd - Talking About God 9 Robert McClellan
The Good Shepherd may be one of the more familiar ways of speaking of God, and even though we are no longer a pastoral people, we can connect to the imagery of a God who is protective, looks out for us, knows us and calls to us, and who guides us in good ways (and to green pastures). But there may be other aspects to this familiar imagery, such as a fierceness of God, a self-sacrificing nature, a protector in endless pursuit of our wellbeing. Explore this old way of speaking of God for new understanding of God's calling on your life.

Scripture(s)

Psalm 23

The Divine Shepherd

A Psalm of David.

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
3 he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

John 10:7b-15

“Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me[a] are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

Hymns

The King of Love My Shepherd is 802

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need 803

Quotes, Questions & Prompts for Reflection, Discussion, and Prayer

“The true shepherd lays down his life for the sheep; he does not abandon them in danger but stands between them and the wolf.”

-Gregory the Great

1. What connotations does the 23rd Psalm have for you?

2. Read it again carefully and see what other angles you can see it from? What new or different do you discover?
3. How is conceiving of God as shepherd helpful?
4. How may it be unhelpful?
5. What does it feel like to be one of the sheep?