

December 6, 2020

Advent 2 | Preparing the Way to the Shepherd's Arms

Getting Ready

Good morning boys and girls, and welcome to Children's Chapel. I am glad that you are here and that we are together with Jesus. As we get ourselves ready for this time together, let us sit quietly in our sacred spaces and light our candles.

First, we light the Christ candle and as we light it, let us remember that Jesus is the light of the world and that God sent Jesus to teach us all about God and how much God loves us. Next, we light the three smaller candles that represent all of us here as we sit at the feet of Jesus.

In my sacred space, I also have a cross that reminds me that Jesus died for us so that we can experience life with God forever. I also have 3 prayer rocks here that help me to focus on my time with Jesus.

And now that we are ready, we can begin today's teaching.

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Theme

The Lord is our shepherd.

Object

A stuffed sheep or a shepherd's crook

Scripture

Isaiah 40:11

"He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young."

Teaching

How much do you know about sheep? Let's see if you know the answers to these questions.

You really do know quite a bit about sheep, don't you?

Here are some other things that you may, or may not, know about sheep. Sheep are pretty much helpless and can't find their own food and water. They often wander away from the flock and become lost. Sheep have no means of protecting themselves and they will run when they are threatened by a coyote, wolf, or some other animal that tries to harm them. As you can see, the sheep need someone to take care of them and that is where the shepherd comes in. The shepherd is very important in the care and protection of the sheep.

There are many times that the Bible refers to God's children as sheep and the Lord as their shepherd. That is a very good picture, isn't it? What does the shepherd do for his sheep? He provides them a pasture where they find food. He takes care of those who need him most, especially the little lambs. When they are hurt or afraid, he picks them up and carries them in his arms. He gathers the sheep when they wander off and protects them from their enemies.

The prophet Isaiah tells us how God loves and protects his children. Listen to what he says, "He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young." Is 40:11

The shepherd always wants what is best for his sheep. He leads them into green pastures where they have plenty to eat. He leads them to water so that they have plenty to drink. He leads them to the shelter where they will be safe from danger.

Just as the prophet Isaiah said, the Lord is our shepherd. He provides us with all that we need. Now, that doesn't mean that if we follow Jesus the shepherd we will never have any troubles or challenges in our life. Instead, it means even when those hard things happen, God is right there with us to help us through. When we stray, he wants to bring us back. When we are in danger, he wants to protect us. When we fall down, he wants to pick us up. And even in those difficult times, if we look hard enough, we can see that God is providing people all around us who do these things.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, you are the shepherd, and we are your sheep. We thank you for your son Jesus who holds us close.

Closing

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

What is it that Jesus holds close to his heart? Look up Isaiah 40:11

Who do the sheep represent?