



## Church at Home for Abridge

3rd May 2020

### Good Shepherd Sunday John 10:1-10

A very early mosaic of Jesus the Good Shepherd

#### Further resources for worship and reflection

When Jesus told his parable of the Good Shepherd, contrasting the hero of his story with thieves and robbers, he was drawing on imagery from Ezekiel chapter 34.

- Read through Ezekiel chapter 34 and reflect on what new insights this gives you into the words of Jesus in John chapter 10.

When the crowds heard Jesus talk about himself as The Good Shepherd, they would have recalled the words of Psalm 23 and also remember how God is addressed in the opening verse of Psalm 80.

- Read Psalm 23 and Psalm 80:1-3 and reflect on what further insights these verses give you into the words of Jesus in John chapter 10.
- Why do you think the crowd thought he was mad or 'demon-possessed' after listening to this parable (19-20)? What do you think this story has to say to us about the mystery and miracle of Easter?
- There are two 'I am' statements in today's reading. How do 'I am the gate' and 'I am the good shepherd' relate to each other and to us? What do they mean for you personally, particularly in this time of lockdown?

#### I am the door of the sheepfold

Not one that's gently hinged or deftly hung,  
Not like the ones you planed at Joseph's place,  
Not like the well-oiled openings that swung  
So easily for Pilate's practiced pace,  
Not like the ones that closed in Mary's face  
From house to house in brimming Bethlehem,  
Not like the one that no man may assail,  
The dreadful curtain, The forbidding veil  
That waits your breaking in Jerusalem.  
Not one you made but one you have become:  
Load-bearing, balancing, a weighted beam  
To bridge the gap, to bring us within reach  
Of your high pasture. Calling us by name,  
You lay your body down across the breach,  
Yourself the door that opens into home.  
**Malcolm Guite**



*'You need to know what you have in your Shepherd. You have a God who hears you, the power of love behind you, the Holy Spirit within you, and all of heaven ahead of you. If you have the Shepherd, you have grace for every sin, direction for every turn, a candle for every corner, and an anchor for every storm. You have everything you need!'* **Max Lucado**

**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.**

**Isaiah 40:11**

Listen to John Rutter ['The Lord is my shepherd'](#)