

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

A reflection on still waters, from Psalm 23, verse two:

*“...he leadeth me beside the still waters.”*

(Psalm 23:1 KJV)

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My dear friends,

This is the seventh Sunday we've been apart, worshipping away from our church. We have done the best we can to provide a “virtual” Worship service. God has been glorified and praised each week. Still, we look forward to when we can worship together again. For these are strange, uncertain times. We would rather worship together. During the week, we find that too easily we are sad, filled with anxiety, searching for a better way...and then today we hear:

## The Lord is My Shepherd...

<i>If it be the Good Shepherd who leadeth me;</i>	<i>I want to follow!</i>
<i>If our destination are His Still Waters;</i>	<i>I want to go, for my waters are turbulent.</i>
<i>His Still Waters are peaceful and calm;</i>	<i>Mine are chaotic and wild.</i>
<i>His Waters are filled with Grace;</i>	<i>Mine are just full of trouble.</i>
<i>His Waters are welcoming;</i>	<i>My waters are filled with fear.</i>

This World is Broken. But You bring us healing, O Shepherd of all our needs.

<i>We live in strange times.</i>	<i>But You, O Lord, are still Our Shepherd!</i>
<i>We reluctantly follow stay-at-home orders.</i>	<i>You, O Lord, lead us to a peaceful place.</i>
<i>We practice social distancing.</i>	<i>You, O Lord, tell us You're close by.</i>
<i>We wear masks.</i>	<i>You, O Lord, know who we are anyway.</i>

We are yours, O Christ. We are the sheep of your pasture, but we can't find our way back to You on our own. We need You to Lead us, O Lord. We look to the Good Shepherd, for...

*“He restoreth my soul;”*

(Psalm 23:3 ESV)

<i>I hear Your Voice...</i>	<i>And you find me, O Lord.</i>
<i>I long for the still waters...</i>	<i>And you bring me there.</i>
<i>In You Only, O Shepherd; In You alone:</i>	<i>My soul is restored!</i>

In faith, we trust that the Lord will lead through these strange times.

The Lord knows:

- We need rest. We need the still waters.
- We are restored by the presence of the Lord leading us to this place of Peace, Tranquility, and Grace.

*And so, my friends, let us always remember:*

This Good Shepherd went to a cross and died for the forgiveness of our sins. He arose again on the third day, with the promise that one day we too will rise from death into new life, and share eternity in heaven with Him, our Good Shepherd—Christ the Lord!

Until that time of great joy, we pray:

- Lead and guide us, O Shepherd. We will follow You!
- Lead us in God's peace, lead us beside the still waters of God's grace and mercy, where all is calm, all is forgiven, all is made right by the Good Shepherd, who knows us by name and calls out to us.

O Good Shepherd!

- Lead us besideth the still waters; Restore our souls.
- For deep in our hearts, we know that is the best place to be, and the way we want to go; O Lord.

For...

The Lord is My Shepherd...

Amen