



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for  
26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 Prepared by Ms Beryl Stew

### Worship in the following locations:

Circuit Service at Endon Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Rev Julie Hassall and  
Rev Denise Williamson



Listen to the voice that is calling you.  
Reject the other things calling you away.  
Follow where Jesus leads.  
Enter the gateway to new life.  
Come, live life to the full.

Hymn StF 322 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds [How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds \(Tune: St Peter - 6vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

### Prayers

Heavenly Father, our shepherd,  
let us follow your voice  
as you lead us to rest and peace  
and life everlasting. **Amen.**

Almighty God, in your Son you took on frail flesh  
that we might know and understand you better.  
**God revealed in Christ, we worship and adore you.**  
Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself to be born  
As one of us and called yourself the Good Shepherd.  
**Jesus, Good Shepherd, we worship and adore you.**  
Holy Spirit, God sent you to descend upon Jesus as a dove.  
**Holy Spirit, messenger of God, we worship and adore you.**  
**Amen**

Readings Psalm 23, St John 10 v 1 – 10 [Psalm 23, John 10:1-10 NIV - A psalm of David. The LORD is my - Bible Gateway](#)

Hymn StF 481 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want [Bing Videos](#)

## Reflection

A typical sheepfold in Jesus' day was a pen with a rock wall that often surrounded the mouth of a cave to provide shelter from inclement weather. Thorny plants grew over the wall to deter wolves and predators. A gate in the wall would allow access to the fold which was often used by several shepherds for their flocks. Either they would hire a gatekeeper to guard the sheep overnight or one of them would lie across the gate to act as a door to the fold. The sheep would instinctively know the voice or tuneful whistle of the shepherd when he led them out to new pasture.

This parable gives us an evocative picture of a shepherd's care for his flock, in the face of the risks and dangers from predators, thieves and bad weather.

These verses compare Jesus to the gate to the fold, but the following verses 11 – 18 to the shepherd. So as the gate provides access into and out of the sheepfold, ensuring the sheep are safe and well fed – so the flock flourish. Jesus knows his sheep so well that they are prepared to listen to him and distinguishing himself from 'thieves and bandits', who see sheep as commodities rather than living creatures who need nurturing. Jesus rejects their self-interest. Instead, he is utterly other-centred in his care. A shepherd lying across the gate is a gateway to life for the sheep, who lies down and stands up regularly.

As we transfer in our minds this interpretation of being the gate of the sheepfold to Jesus, it raises several thoughts and truths. The sheep know the shepherd's voice and listen for it – do we listen for Jesus' voice for guidance in our lives – and for nurturing us in our Christian walk. Are we prepared to follow Jesus, knowing this will bring us into a fuller life, knowing the grace of God through the Word made flesh.

Shepherding has two images of pastoral care in which 'knowing' means healing, sustaining, and keeping safe, and 'being known' means feeling confident and secure enough to follow Jesus into the wider world, trusting that he is able to bring out the best in life. This dynamic lies at the heart of the continuing ministry of the risen Jesus, and the well-being of the community that follows him. We must take notice that this applies to us today as Jesus' followers.

### Prayer of Confession.

Lord, we confess that when things are going well, we become complacent and take you for granted. We bask in the safety and security that you give us and neglect to listen for your voice. We forget that you are the gateway to life, who leads us to safe pastures, when we heed your voice. We recommit ourselves to listening for you, Lord. **Amen.**

### Intercessions.

Lord, we bring to you the world, with all the unrest and conflicts, where Leaders are exerting power over other nations. We pray that peace may be negotiated, so that the suffering and destruction may cease. We pray for people who are being oppressed in any way, whether for their religious beliefs or because they are different in some way.

We pray for families who are struggling because of the cost- of -living crisis.  
We pray for all who are victims of abuse in any form, may they find help.  
We remember all who are in pain, either physical or mental, may they find healing.  
We pray for all who are mourning the loss of a loved one at this time, may they know you very near to them, bringing comfort and strength to face each day.  
Finally, we pray for ourselves, may we know you to be the 'Gateway to Life', bringing us into a fuller knowledge of your love & guidance. **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer.**

Hymn StF 94 To God be the glory [To God be the glory StF 94 - YouTube](#)

Benediction.

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