



**Meditation for the Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Good Shepherd Sunday  
April 25, 2021**

*I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.*

[John 10:14]

Jesus' meditation on "the good shepherd" offers an especially timely insight into true leadership. In a culture with so many news sources and where public leaders thrive on sound bites, we struggle to discern whose voice to believe.

Jesus teaches us to trust our own inner wisdom. Our discernment is honed, of course, through spiritual discipline, but Jesus has promised us that we will recognize the voice of our Shepherd, the guidance of Holy Spirit, no matter how lost we may feel.

And if we can trust our own inner wisdom--if we can hear the voice of our Good Shepherd--we will be the shepherds who assure others that they have a home in this world, that together—as a flock or a family or a community far-flung-- we will listen and watch out for each other. And we will share in the peace we seek.

Bobby McFerrin's adaptation of Psalm 23 may help us hear this promise anew, and to renew trust in our inner wisdom:

*The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all I need,  
She makes me lie down in green meadows,  
Beside the still waters, She will lead.*

*She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,  
She leads me in a path of good things,  
And fills my heart with songs.*

*Even though I walk, through a dark & dreary  
land,  
There is nothing that can shake me,  
She has said She won't forsake me,  
I'm in her hand.*

*She sets a table before me, in the presence  
of my foes,  
She anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup overflows.*

*Surely, surely goodness & kindness will  
follow me,  
All the days of my life,  
And I will live in her house,  
Forever, forever & ever.*

*Glory be to our Mother, & Daughter,  
And to the Holy of Holies,  
As it was in the beginning, is now & ever  
shall be,  
World, without end. Amen*