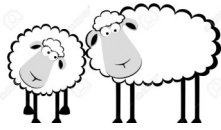


May 3, 2020



Brandon Christian Church



Fourth Sunday of Easter

# Flock Talk

813-689-4021

brandonchristianchurch.org

910 Bryan Road, Brandon, FL 33511

brandonchristianchurch@gmail.com

## Today's Scriptures & Message:

Liturgist: Don Sherman

Psalm: Psalm 23

Gospel: John 10:1-10

Sr. Minister: Rev. Day Broers-Case

Sermon Text: Acts 17:1-9,  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Sermon: "Church at Thessalonica"

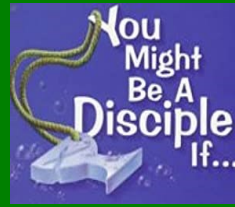
## Serving in Today's Worship

Elders: Don Sherman and Cammie Denton

Music Director: Rick Barclay

Audio/Video: Tom Smiley and Art Konnerth

## You Might Be a Disciple If:



To bring a little levity during this difficult time, this space will be featuring jokes from "You Might Be A Disciple If..." By David Patrick Polk

"You might be a Disciple if...  
You think arguing is a sacrament."

"You might be a Disciple if...  
When you hear "restoration movement  
you don't think of housing rehab."

"You might be a Disciple if...  
Your baptismal candidates learn about  
faith, prayer, and breath control."

In essentials, unity.  
In non-essentials, liberty.  
In all things, love!

## Happy Mother's Day to all!



We will be including our Mother's Day slide show in our Mother's Day service on May 10th. I will be using last year's and adding to it as necessary. If you have not included a picture of your mother and would like to do so please pass it along. Likewise, if you have a new or different photo you would like to use please pass that along as well!

## amazon smile

Already love Amazon? How about using AmazonSmile! The same great Amazon you love but with .05% of the profits being automatically donated to us!

When you start your Amazon shopping at smile.amazon.com and select Brandon Christian Church as the Smile organization you wish to support, Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase to the church. It's a great way to help the church out by just doing your normal Amazon shopping!

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST IDENTITY STATEMENT

## Prayer Needs...



GOODRUM, Steve (Mary Ann's brother)++  
MCMILLON, Florence (Andrea's Mother)++  
MCMILLON, Andrea++  
HUSKEY, Joshua (Powell)  
BARNES, Johnny & Danielle (Powell)  
BAUCH, Scott & Pam (Failes)  
BENNETT, Adam (Benitez)  
BENNICK, Patty (Garthwaite)  
BROERS-CASE, Rev Day  
BRYAN, Thelma (Rev Day)  
BURDICK, Ronald (Skasko)  
BUTTERWECK, Chris  
CAIN, Gail  
COLLINS, Rev. James (Rev Day)  
DENTON, Bill

DIGREGORIO, Robyn and her roommate Gene  
DUPONT, Andy (Kathy M.)  
ECKDAHL, Kathy  
FAILES FAMILY  
FUERST, Jacob (Drayer)  
GAINES, Matthew (DiGregorio)  
GIBERSON, Milton (Tom) & Joan  
HALL, Lori (Jean U.)  
KYLE, Julie (Peterson)  
LEBOW, Jake (Friend of the Powell's)  
LEUNG, Gordon and Anthony  
MAYER, Vicki  
McKINLEY, Sarah Lynn (Denton)  
MICHAEL, (Jo H.)

MILLER, Brooke (Blinder)  
MOJICA, Nelda (Betty C.'s Mom)  
MOJICA, Ruthie (Betty C's Sister)  
PAULSON, Diane  
POWELL, Betty (Rev. Day)  
RIENSCH, Nancy  
RODGERS, Cheryl (Benitez)  
SMITH, Tim  
STUEBER, Susan (Solomon)  
UPTON, Dallas (Jean)  
VELEZ, Fernando (Elizabeth)  
WATSON, Tom  
WATTS, Dorothy (former member)

++new name--Please also pray for all those affected by Covid-19, our first responders, medical care professionals, and those out on the front lines to protect us.

# One Shepherd's Thoughts...



There are some hidden Hebrew treasures in today's Psalm. These show us that, no matter how well we think we know this poem—there's always more layers to uncover in Psalm 23. First of all—Goodness and Mercy Don't "Follow" Us In verse 6, we read, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." The verb for "follow" is radaph. But the translation of this Hebrew verb as "follow" is far too weak and bloodless.

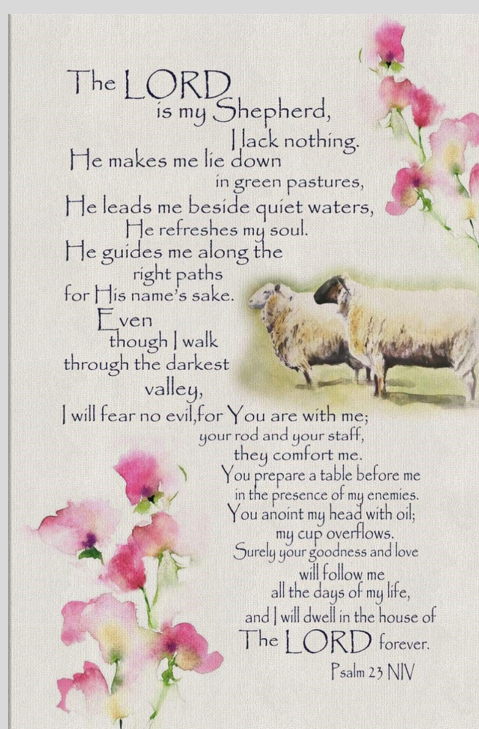
Radaph means to chase after, to pursue. The goodness and mercy of God do not follow us like a good little puppy dog, trailing along behind us. Rather, they gallop after us like a celestial stallion. As in the famous poem by Francis Thompson, the Lord's goodness and mercy chase us down labyrinthine paths like the Hound of Heaven. They stay hot on our heels. The divine love and grace of our shepherd radaph us all the way to heaven's gate and into the arms of our waiting Father.

We are pursued by mercy. We are chased by grace. We are not merely followed. And secondly—Psalm 23 is not the shortest of the psalms—but it is relatively brief. It's not as short as Psalm 117 (17 Hebrew words) or as long as Psalm 119 (1065 Hebrew words!). Psalm 23 has 55 Hebrew words in it. What's fascinating—however—is what forms the numerical center of this psalm. At the heart of Psalm 23 are the words, "For Thou art with me." There are exactly 26 Hebrew words before that phrase, and exactly 26 words after it. What's more, in the verses leading up to that phrase, the poet speaks of God in the third person: "he" does this and "he" does that. But when we get to this numerical center, the psalmist transitions into speaking to God directly, in the second person: for "Thou" art with me, "Thy" rod and staff, "Thou" dost prepare. The abiding presence of the Shepherd with us is the beating heart of the poem.

Psalm 23 opens with the Hebrew word, YHWH. Then 26 words later, the poet prays directly to the Lord, saying, "Thou [Yahweh] art with me." Then he follows with 26 more words. We can't see this in our English translation—but in Hebrew the message is clear: the abiding presence of the Shepherd with us—whether we're in the valley of the shadow of death or surrounded by enemies—is the beating heart of the poem.

So, as you can see, our old friend—Psalm 23—has some new stories to tell us. We're still in the process of getting to know our good shepherd. I pray these Hebrew insights will make this Psalm an even closer friend than before.

God be with you,  
Rev Day



BLANKET  
THE WORLD  
WITH love

[cwsblankets.org/mothersday](https://cwsblankets.org/mothersday)

## CWS Blanket Sunday

As we have in years past we will be participating in CWS Blanket Sunday for Mother's Day.

If you would like to purchase a blanket in honor or memory of the beloved mother(s) in your life, simply add \$5.00 per blanket to your tithe and note how much goes to blankets in the memo line of your check. If you are ordering through Give Plus, please make sure to put the amount that you want to give for blankets in the appropriate line for Blanket Sunday.

The Church World Service is there to respond when disaster strikes. Along with blankets the organization also raises funds for hygiene kits, emergency clean up kits, and school kits to help bring some normalcy back.

"When you are staying in a temporary shelter something as simple as a CWS hygiene kit and a soft blanket to keep you warm can provide you with a little piece of comfort and dignity"

—Rev. Terry Kukuk, Dayton Ohio Tornado Response, 2019"

In 2019 CWS distributed 59,173 blankets, and 19,923 hygiene kits in the United States alone. In total CWS distributed 154,334 blankets and kits total to countries including Syria, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Greece. To learn more check out [cwsblankets.org/mothersday](https://cwsblankets.org/mothersday).