

Intercessions 30 April 2023 Adam Phillips

The Lord is our shepherd,
and we are the sheep of his pasture.
Let us bring to him our cares and concerns
for the Church and for the world.

Good Shepherd of the sheep, we pray for the church;
for all congregations, for pastors
and for all who minister in word and sacrament;
we pray particularly for Bishops
in their shepherding of the whole Church.

We pray for clear guidance and direction
in those issues which disturb us,
asking not that you lead us the easy way
but the way that is right and good.

The Lord is my Shepherd:
There is nothing I shall want.

Good Shepherd of the sheep,
You choose us in Christ to be your people
and to be the temple of your holy spirit.
We ask for your blessing on those who have been elected
in our Annual Parochial Church Meeting today
to serve as Churchwardens, on Deanery Synod and our Parochial Church Council.
Help them to understand what each can contribute.
Enable them to listen to and learn from each other.
And give them unity of heart and mind
to consider the tasks and challenges before them.

The Lord is my Shepherd:
There is nothing I shall want.

Good Shepherd of the sheep,
We pray for the world we inhabit –
the world we have inherited
and will pass on to successive generations.
Teach us to look after it carefully and wisely,
to share its gifts more fairly,
and work together to ease its suffering.
Turn the hearts of those who are excited by evil things
and encourage the timid to speak out
for what is wholesome and good.

The Lord is my Shepherd:
There is nothing I shall want.

Good Shepherd of the sheep, we pray for our
places of work, our colleagues, friends and neighbours,
and the members of our families.
We ask not for popularity at all costs,
but the grace to do your will and be your witness
to what it means to live lovingly,

both when this is easy and also when it hurts.

The Lord is my Shepherd:

There is nothing I shall want.

Good Shepherd of the sheep,
We pray for the weak and vulnerable,
for those who must live
depending on others for every need,
and for those who are bullied, or constantly despised.
We pray for a greater reverence, one for another,
for a greater willingness
to uphold and encourage one another;
we pray for healing and wholeness.

The Lord is my Shepherd:

There is nothing I shall want.

Good Shepherd of the sheep,
we pray for those who have died;
we pray for those who ache at sorrow at their going;
we commend them all into your unfailing care
which lasts throughout this life and on into eternity.

The Lord is my Shepherd:

There is nothing I shall want.

Good Shepherd of the sheep, we give you thanks
that in you we are able to live through good and ill
with abundance of life.

Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**