

Gather Together...

Take time together as a family, find a quiet space, perhaps play some music, light a candle and sit comfortably.

**Make the Sign of the Cross**



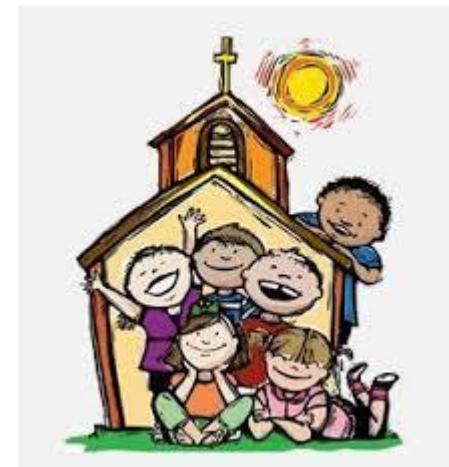
Listen Together...

Listen to this week's scripture, from the Gospel according to Luke...

One day Jesus said, 'I am the Good Shepherd who is ready to die for his sheep. A man who is hired to look after the flock does not really care about it because he knows that the sheep do not really belong to him. When the hungry wolf appears, the man runs away and the sheep are scattered. I know each of my sheep by name and they know the sound of my voice. They will always follow me and I am ready to give up my life for them.'

Respond Together...

- What is a shepherd? A shepherd cares for all the needs of his sheep – finding them pasture and water, shelter from the weather and protecting them from wild animals and danger. He watches over them at all times and knows each of them individually.



- What did Jesus say about the hired man? A hired man is paid to look after a flock of sheep. The sheep do not belong to him and he does not particularly care about them. When a wolf appears, he is more bothered about himself and he abandons the flock.
- How would you describe a sheep to someone? Sheep are timid animals who like to be kept together. Sheep can often get themselves into trouble unless someone is taking care of them.
- Do you think Jesus was talking about sheep? Jesus is the Good Shepherd and we are his 'flock'. He told this story to make us understand that he cares for us as much as a shepherd cares for his sheep. Jesus watches over us at all times and knows each of us by name. He guides us and keeps us from harm.
- When Jesus said he would be prepared to give up his life for his flock, what did he mean? Jesus' love for us is so strong that he was willing to suffer and die on the cross for our sakes. His sacrifice means we can join him in the heavenly kingdom.

Pray Together... Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd. We are your flock. Help us to know your voice and always follow you. Amen.

