

The Good Goatherd

In an Indian village, a good goatherd had a goat farm with over a hundred goats. He loved them and they adored him. They could recognise his call and respond by running to him and surrounding him. He used to feed them with love and care. When any goat had an injury, he used to nurse it with compassion. One day he had to go to the town to buy essential articles for the farm. He fed the goats with affection, locked the gate of the farm, and left for the town. When he returned, he was shocked to find the door of the farm lying opened. Rushing into the farm, he found that all the goats were missing. Obviously, some thief had sneaked into the farm and stolen his dear goats. He ran out of the farm house and asked the villagers about the lost goats. No one could help him. They rushed through the road connecting the village to the town and enquired everywhere about the missing goats. One person told that he had seen a truck full of goats proceeding from the village towards the town. They informed the police and rushed to the town. They found the truck full of goats parked near a hotel. The driver and his assistants were having their dinner in the hotel. They asked the driver, but he claimed that the goats were his own. By that time, the police also arrived there. The police questioned the driver but he was firm in his stand. The driver asked the owner of the lost sheep whether he had any evidence to prove that the goats in the truck belonged to him. The goatherd boldly told the driver and the police, "My goats can recognise me and my voice. I shall call them and if they respond by running to me, you can be sure that the goats are mine. Everyone agreed. They moved towards the truck. The police asked the driver to open the bars surrounding the truck. The goatherd called his flock in a loud and loving tone. Suddenly, all the goats jumped out of the truck and ran to him. They surrounded him and he patted them with affection. The police arrested the thieves and let the loving goatherd go to his farm with the recovered flock of goats. The villagers celebrated the victory and returned to their village jubilantly. The Holy Bible describes Jesus as the Good Shepherd who loves his sheep - the whole humanity.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep" {John 10: 11}. "I know my sheep and they know me. And I am willing to die for them" {John 10: 14, 15}. "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never die. No one can snatch them away from me" {John 10: 27, 28}.

~ Unknown Author

Sung Eucharist
7:30 AM
Message:
Rev. Samuel
Rajkumar
Celebrant:
Rev. J. Paul
Sudhakar

CSI St.Thomas English Church

Church of South India –Diocese of Madras
Santhome, Chennai-600 004
<http://www.santhomeenglishchurch.org>

Even song
6:00PM

Celebrant:
Rev. J. Paul
Sudhakar

Affirmation of Christ as Lord and God



Altar flowers, Bible

Readings, & Offertory:

Mr. & Mrs. Ashok Vincent &
family

WORSHIP SERVICE 16th April 2023

Let us worship our Lord through...

Opening Hymn : 125

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament Exodus 3:13 - 17

Epistle Colossians 1: 15- 23

Responsive Reading Psalm 93

Gospel John 20: 24 - 29

Announcement

Preparatory Song: All heavens declares

Meditation: "Affirmation of Christ as Lord and God"

Mission Offertory Hymn: 503

Offertory Hymn: 130

Communion Hymns: 322, 323 (A&M)

Prayer


Benediction

Closing Hymn : 131

Collect for the first Sunday after Easter: O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who has given Your only Son, the first born over all creation, to die for our sins, grant us so perfectly and without any doubt to believe in His resurrection. So that we continue to be faithful on this firm foundation not allowing ourselves to be shaken from the hope that we have heard and learned from Your Gospel, Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever more. **Amen.**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 93	<p>The Lord reigns; he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed; he has put on strength as his belt. Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.</p> <p>Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.</p> <p>The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring.</p> <p>Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the Lord on high is mighty!</p> <p>Your decrees are very trustworthy; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.</p> <p>Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;</p> <p>As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.</p>
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Birthdays	16 th April Mr. D. James Thiraviaraj 17 th April Mrs. Deepika Emerwin 18 th April Mr. R. M. Niranjana Rev. J. Paul Sudhakar 19 th April Miss. Divya Rachel Robin 20 th April Mrs. Sujatha Pavamani Mrs. Thilaka Rathnam
Wedding Anniversaries	17 th April Mrs. K. Hazel Anita & Mr. K. L. D. Prasad 20 th April Mrs. Ezhil & Mr. Rohan Augustus 22 nd April Dr. Mrs. Adelene & Mr. E. Prem Kumar Samuel

Preparatory Song 	<p>All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord <i>Noel Richards & Tricia Richards</i></p> <p>All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord Who can compare the beauty of the risen Lord Forever He will be the Lamb upon the throne I gladly bow my knee and worship Him alone</p> <p>I will proclaim the glory of the risen Lord Who once was slain to reconcile man to God Forever He will be the Lamb upon the throne I gladly bow my knee and worship Him alone</p>
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I Don't want to change!

“But I don't want to change,” Ruth repeated for what must have been the fifteenth time that afternoon. For years, Ruth had lived the life of a pauper. The open sky had been her shelter; the generosity of passerby's her income. Now her father stood before her, offering her what he had offered her every day of her life—to give her a new life with him.

“But, Ruth, why would you insist on clinging to your pauper ways when I offer you a way of escape?” Ruth could hear the pain in her father's voice. Nevertheless, she stubbornly shook her head and replied, “I don't want to change,” she repeated again. “I like the way things are.” “But just last week, you complained about how you went to bed hungry. And don't you remember how miserable life can be in the rain?” Ruth paused as she contemplated these points. It was true. Life could get very miserable out on the streets. But give up the life she'd known? Oh, no, that she could never do! She would much rather go on complaining, even while ignoring the solution to her complaints. I can't change, Father,” Ruth argued. “I'm too set in my ways. It's just a hopeless case. I tried a few months back to give up this life, remember? And the very first day I was back on the streets! I just can't help it!”

“Oh, but you could! I would help you! You could come live with me. I would give you other things to do besides aimlessly roaming the streets in this fashion. We could have so much fun together! Oh, do come!” Ruth's father reached out his hand as if to invite her to join him in happiness.

Ruth shook her head. “I just can't change,” she repeated.

“You can't, or you won't?” The question was made in a voice barely above a whisper. Ruth made no reply. She simply turned and walked down the street to continue her self-imposed miserable life. Ruth's father forced back the tears as he watched his daughter leave. He slowly turned and walked away. He would come back again tomorrow. Maybe then his daughter would be ready to accept his gift of love.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

~ Unknown Author