

Valerie's message

May 6, 2022

Dear Friends,

Years ago I had an orphan lamb named "Felise." (Say it fast and it sounds like "fleece.") I would rise in the night to feed her, bring her into the house in blustery weather, and take her in my little car into town for an errand. She would jump in just like a dog. I've no idea why I wasn't worried about "the mess" she might make in the car! If she wasn't by my side, she would always come running when I called.

In this week's lectionary [scripture](#) from the Gospel of John, Jesus says, *"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me."* He goes on to say, *"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand."*

What would it mean for us to:

- a) listen for the shepherd's voice,
- b) trust the shepherd, and
- c) respond when called? It seems to me this is the crux of our faith journey: listening, trusting, responding.

In these days when the world seems to have "gone to hell in a handbasket," as my grandma used to say, we are all having to dig deep into our spiritual resources to listen, trust, respond. Thankfully, we are not alone in any of it. I hope you can join us on Sunday as we gather for worship, a community of people seeking to be faithful together, trusting that "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." (Psalm 23)

In our prayers:

- We continue to uphold **Sharon Hoekstra** who is in UA hospital after a set-back from her brain surgery. Sharon welcomes texts and calls.
- **John Adomonis** has also been in UA this week recovering from a second surgery following complications from his first.
- In some bright news, long time church member and choir devotee **Gladys Payne** sends greetings from Chartwell Retirement Centre in St. Albert where she now lives after experiencing a stroke some months ago. Gladys joins us on YouTube for worship each Sunday, and in her words, "I still sing up a storm!" I snapped this picture on Thursday outside her new home. Isn't she beautiful?



May you have a blessed weekend as the earth takes a welcome drink of the gift of rain,

Valerie