

***God, my shepherd! I don't need a thing.
You have bedded me down in lush meadows,
you find me quiet pools from which to drink.
True to your word, you let me catch my breath
and send me in the right direction.
Even when the way goes through Death Valley,
I'm not afraid when you walk at my side.
Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure.
You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies.
You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing.
Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life.
I'm back home in the house of GOD for the rest of my life.***
-Psalm 23 (The Message)

If you can get over the fact this is not the original version, these words are for us. Written thousands of years ago, God speaks to us through David, a shepherd, a king, a musician, a poet, a man of God.

We don't need a thing – even though there is a virus running amuck in our world, bringing fear, loss, and death. Even though we grieve for our losses. Even here in the midst of Covid19, God beds us down in lush meadows and lets us drink from still waters. Bedded down, satiated, full, comfortable, at peace. We do not need a thing. God has us relax. We can sit back and realize how fortunate we are to be in the flock of this Shepherd. We have nothing to worry about, even now.

Even though we are confused, not sure where to go or what to do, God lets us rest and then sends us off - in the right direction. And the Shepherd goes with us. God makes us feel secure, even here.

God feeds us, fulfills our needs even in the midst of a Pandemic. He strengthens us, we cannot even outrun God's daily blessings for us, and we cannot contain all of God's blessings.

We are, even now as we read of more unemployed, more sick, more dead; even now as there is no cure and the symptoms and effects of the disease are changing, even as the questions outweigh the understanding, even now – we are at home in the house of God – for the rest of our lives.

Even now, the Lord is our Shepherd.

I Bid you Peace,

Pastor Tonia

