Good Morning First Presbyterian Church of Lake Mary

I pray everyone is doing well…….

**I am** Elder Jim Bragonier and **I am** humbled and honored to be asked by Pastor Joe to lead worship today. My sermon title today is **“I AM the Good Shepherd”**

**Ref: Off the Cuff Stories**

Beatles Song: “I get by with a little help from my friends”

High School –Speech Class 1952

1964 Western Md. College

**Old Testament Lesson** Ezekiel 34:1-4;23-24

**Hear the word of the Lord**

*The word of the Lord came to me; “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them; “This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock?” You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally.*

*I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the Lord will be their God, and by servant David, will be prince among them. I the Lord have spoken.*

***Psalm 23 : (Please feel free to say it with me)***

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
   He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
   he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
   for his name’s sake.*

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
   I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
   your rod and your staff—  
   they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me  
   in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
   my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
   all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
   my whole life long.*

*And the New Testament Lessons comes from….*

***John 10: 11***

*“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”*

*And in* ***Hebrews 13:20-21***

*Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back for the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ to whom be glory for ever and ever.*

**This is the word of the Lord!**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Let us Pray: Heavenly father May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.**

“**I AM** the Good Shepherd” from the book of John.

The term **“I Am”** relating to God appears over **300 times** in the Bible. First in the book of **Genesis (15:1)** and last in the Book of **Revelations (22:16).** **Jesus said I AM** **7 times…….**

1. **The Bread of Life**

***And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."***-John 6:35

1. **Light of the World**

***Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."***-John 8:12

1. **The Door**

***"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."***-John 10:9

1. **Good Shepherd**

***"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."***-John 10:11

1. **The Resurrection and Life**

**Jesus said to her*, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"***-John 11:25, 26

1. **The Way, the Truth and the Life**

***Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."****-John 14:6*

1. **The Vine**

***"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."***-John 15:5

In **Ezekiel 34:23** *I will place over them one shepherd my servant David and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd.*

Jesus is Jesus as the Good Shepherd’

**John 10:1** *“Very truly I tell you Pharises, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in some other way is a thief and a robber.* (**10:1 footnote)** at night sheep were often gathered into a sheep pen to protect them from thieves, weather or wild animals. The sheep pens were caves, sheds, or open areas surrounded by walls made of stones or branches. The shepherd often slept across the door way of the pen to protect the sheep. Just as the Shepherd cares for his sheep Jesus the Good Shepherd cares for His flock. (those who follow Him)

Jesus the Good Shepherd **John 10:7** *Therefore Jesus said again, very truly I tell you, I Am the gate for the sheep,* **(footnote 10 :7)** In the sheep pen the Shepherd functioned as a gate letting the sheep in and protecting them. Jesus is the gate to God’s salvation for us. He offers access to safety and security Christ is our Protector. Some people recent that Jesus is the gate and the only way of access to God but Jesus is God’s son why should we seek any other way or want to customize a different approach to God.

In **John 14:6** Thomas said to Jesus *“Lord we don’t know where you are going” Jesus answers I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me.* If you really know me you will know my father as well from now on you do know Him and have seen Him**. (footnote 14:6**) This is one of the most basic and important passages in scripture. ) How can we know the way to God? Only through Jesus is the way because He is both God and man. By uniting our lives with His we are united with God. **(footnote 14:6),** Jesus says He is the only way to God the Father ) Some people may argue this way is to narrow in reality it is wide enough for the whole world if the world chooses to accept it instead of worrying about how limited it sounds to have only one way we should be saying “Thank you God for providing a sure way to get to you. **(footnote 14:6)** as the way Jesus is a path to the father as the truth he is the reality of all God’s promises as the life he joins in divine life to ours both now and eternally.) Jesus is, in truth the only living way to the Father.

**John 10:10** *The thief comes only to steal kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life and have it to the fullest.* **(footnote):** In contrast to the thieves who takes life. Jesus gives life.) The life he gives right now is abundantly richer and fuller. It is eternal yet it begins immediately. Life in Christ is lived on a higher plain because of His overflowing forgiveness, love and guidance. Have you taken Christ offer of life? In **John 11:21** “ *I am the Good Shepherd” The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep*.

The hired hand is not the Shepherd and does not own the sheep. **(footnote: 10: 11-12)** A hired hand tends the sheep for money, while the Shepherd does it for love. The Shepherd owns the sheep and is committed to them. Jesus is not merely doing a job, He is committed to love us and did lay down His life for us. False teachers and false prophets do not have this commitment.

**John 10:16** Jesus goes on and He says *“I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one Shepherd.*  “who are these other sheep you may wonder” **(footnote John 10: 16)**  The other sheep where - Jews. Jesus came to save Gentiles as well as Jews. This is an insight into His world-wide mission – to die for the sins for the world. People tend to want to restrict God’s blessings to their own people, but Jesus refuses to be limited by the fences we build.

**John 10: 17** Jesus finished the “Good Shepherd” saying *The reason my father loves me is that I Iay down my life- only to take it up again. No one takes it from me but I lay it down on my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again, this command I receive from my Father.*

**(footnote 10: 17-18)**  Jesus’ death and resurrection as part of God’s plan for the salvation of the world were under God’s full control. No one could kill Jesus without His consent.)

Date written probably AD 85-90 Written after the destruction of Jerusalem 70 AD and before the John exile to the island of Patmosi 95 ad.

who was john?

john, the devoted follower of christ, has given us a personal and powerful look at jesus christ, the etneral son of god. john makes it clear that jesus is not just man, he is the etnernal son of god. he is the light of the world because he offers this gift of eternal life to all people. of the 8 miracles recorded 6 are unique to john’s gospel. over 90% of the gospel of john is unique to his genealogy or does not contain any record of jesus birth, childhood, temptation, transfurgiration, appointment of the disciples, nor any account of jesus parables, ascension, or great commission. john the apostle son zebedEe, brother of james, called a ”Son of thunder” .

**Let us pray**

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