

**Prayers of the People**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 30, 2023**  
**Intercessor: Dianne McCabe**

Creating God, we acknowledge that we are on the ancestral land of the Anishinaabe, Attawandron and Haudenosaunee people, the Dish With One Spoon Covenant and Huron Tract Treaty. Good shepherd of the sheep, we pray for the world we inhabit – the world we have inherited and will pass on to successive generations. Teach us to look after it carefully and wisely, to share its gifts more fairly as the First Peoples did.

The Lord is our shepherd, and we are the sheep of his pasture. Let us bring to him our cares and concerns for the Church and the world.

The Lord is my shepherd, responding with  
**there is nothing I shall want.**

Good shepherd of the sheep, we pray for the Church, for Todd our Bishop, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda our Primate, Chris National Indigenous Archbishop Elect, Marinez, Bishop of Amazonia and Primate of Brazil, for all Bishops, Priests, Deacons, all congregations and all who minister in word and sacrament. We pray for clear guidance and direction in those issues which disturb us, asking not that you lead us the easy way but the way that is right and good.

The Lord is my shepherd,  
**there is nothing I shall want.**

Good Shepherd of the sheep, we pray for our places of work, our colleagues, friends and neighbours, the members of our families and those who govern. Turn the hearts of those who are excited by evil things and encourage the timid to speak out for what is wholesome and good. Today we pray especially for the people of The Occupied Territories, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Yemen, Libya, Pakistan, Syria, Brazil and Haiti and all who live in fear or conflict.

The Lord is my shepherd,  
**there is nothing I shall want.**

Good Shepherd of the sheep we pray for Charles our King, our country of Canada, this community of Stratford and all communities represented here today. We pray for the grace to do your will and be your witness to what it means to live lovingly, both when it is easy and also when it hurts.

The Lord is my shepherd,  
**there is nothing I shall want.**

Good Shepherd of the sheep, we pray for the weak and vulnerable, for those who must live depending on others for their every need, and for those who are bullied, or constantly despised. We pray for a greater reverence, one for another, for a greater willingness to uphold and encourage one another, we pray for healing and wholeness for those who have asked us to pray for them: *Niki, Rob, Marg, Maribel, Mary Lou, Frank, Norah, Laurie, Bruce, Jean, Mary, Bill S., Barbara, Sharon, Devin, Dreyes, Bill, Nancy, Cran, David, and Tony.*

The Lord is my Shepherd,  
**there is nothing I shall want.**

Good shepherd of the sheep we pray for those in our St.. James' family who are celebrating birthdays this week: *Jacqueline George, Mary Griffin, Ruby Seben, Nicole Ebel, Sandra Egli, Bob Garland, and Dyna Egli.*

The Lord is my Shepherd,  
**there is nothing I shall want.**

Good Shepherd of the sheep, we pray for those who have died; we pray for those who ache with sorrow at their going; we commend them all into your unfailing care which lasts throughout this life and into eternity. The flowers on the altar today are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jane Turnbull, from her daughters: Peggy, Nancy and Jane. Always in our hearts. Good Shepherd of the sheep comfort all who mourn the loss of a loved one.

The Lord is my Shepherd,  
**there is nothing I shall want.**

Good Shepherd of the sheep, we give you thanks that in you we are able to live through good and ill with abundance of life.

Amen