

VOCATIONS SUNDAY 2018

Call to Worship:

Like sheep gathered around the one who cares for them:

We are welcomed by our Shepherding God

As God's people, known and understood:

We are welcomed by our Shepherding God

As God's people, strengthened by that welcome and gathered to worship:

We are welcomed by our Shepherding God

Prayer of approach:

Gathering God,

we come as your people,

your people of this place and time.

We come bringing our hopes,

sharing our challenges,

open to hearing your call.

We come too maybe burdened by worries,

overwhelmed by stresses,

brimming with emotions and pain.

But we gather as your people

bringing all that we are and all that you know that we can be.

Shepherding God, as you guide us and keep us,

We gather here as this group of your people,

as all that we are,

known by you and without pretence or the expectations that others may set upon us.

We meet to worship you and to rejoice in being with you here.

Amen

Prayer of confession

Loving God, too often we stray from your guidance and seek our own way.

sometimes we set limits and control of who can walk your way,

We make being part of your love a challenge instead of a joy

we impose conditions onto the wideness of your love and hem you in behind the barriers that we work far too hard to constrain you with.

But you see beyond our need to control, you work away from the boundaries that we think we've held you in.

Forgive us for the times that we make being your people a chore and a challenge,

Forgive us when we try to follow our own ways,

and when we cheapen the welcome that you offer to us.

Forgive us when we try to pen you in.

Shepherding God, in the wholeness of all that you share with us, we find your forgiveness and reassuring hope.

Amen