

Dear Ipswich City Church family

Worship

The link to tomorrows service can be found [**HERE**](#)

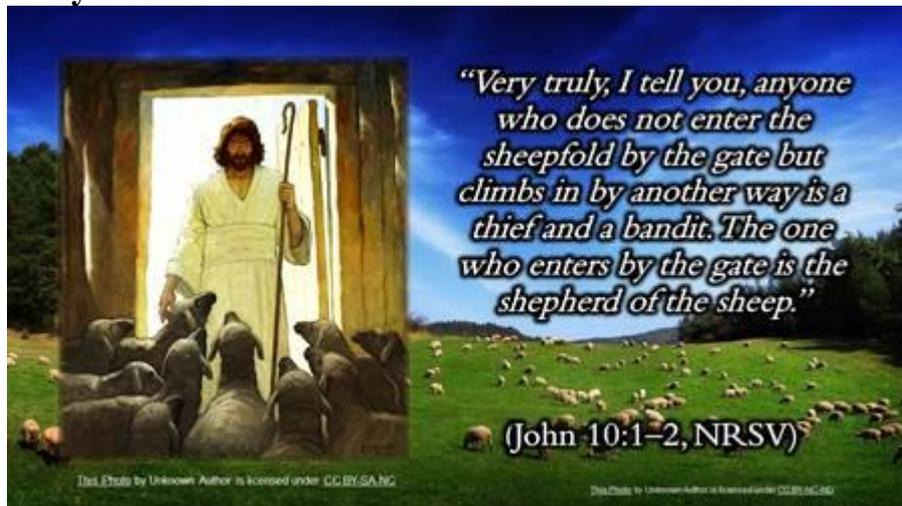
Or you can paste this link into your web

browser: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNPi8bY3yZgKxE5piL8uzcDTOTqpthMGA>

Thanks again to Ashley and also this week to Rob Bennett, Helen Crook and Lorraine Gibson.

Tomrrow's daily reflection and my thought on the Newslink summarise the sermon. The responses for communion will appear on screen. Don't forget to have your communion elements on hand. Some kind of bread and ideally grape juice or wine, (but water will do.)

Daily reflection



“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.” (John 10:1-2, NRSV)

In the last few days, I was picked up for an unintentional breach of copyright. I removed the offending image as soon as I could. Sometimes my wife calls me the copyright Nazi because I like to keep the rules about such things. It is tempting to cut corners. We have seen this in recent times with various people breaching the isolation rules. Some politicians have been fined and had to resign from leadership positions. Worse, some people who have and have not been caught, have been carriers of the virus and infected others. The ends never justify the means.

Sometimes people ask, “Why doesn’t God just stop all the suffering in the world?” I have no easy answer for that question. I think a part of the answer is that God keeps the rules. God could make people do the right thing, but God wants them to choose the right path. This is especially true of Jesus. He could have raised an army of Angels, or an army of followers. His signs and wonders, and the way his words came alive in people’s hearts, could have created a movement which would have taken back the Temple, re-established a Jewish kingdom and crushed the Roman Empire. What would the cost have been? It would not have been the death of one man, it would have been the death of thousands. It might have been a rule of justice, but it would not have been a rule of Love and it would not have been the Kingdom of God.

How do we know the Shepherd? How do we know God’s love? We know it and we receive it from the one who kept the rules of love. We know the Shepherd because the Shepherd doesn’t take shortcuts and climb over the wall. The Shepherd comes through the gate. The Shepherd, Jesus, does what the Father asks.

God, revealed as love in Jesus, help us hear and trust his voice, and so follow the Law of love all our lives. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Yours in Jesus

Andrew
Rev. Andrew Gillies