



February 9 2020

## We are vulnerable, but the Lord is my Shepherd

The news of the death of Kobe Bryant and 8 other people in a helicopter shattered the idea that we, as humans, are in control. It is the kind of tragedy that makes you want to hold your children just a little tighter and to make sure you tell your family you love them before you leave for work.

There are many people who are experiencing these kinds of tragedies every day — cancer, other diseases, the death of a loved one, relationship problems, addiction, and it goes on and on. It is during these times that we realize how vulnerable our souls are to darkness and hopelessness.

It is no accident that the 23rd Psalm begins with “The Lord is My Shepherd”. We as humans are vulnerable creatures just like sheep. There are some differences though. We as humans can see danger coming and we anticipate that danger. We see that the walkway is covered with ice and so we are careful to walk very carefully. We anticipate the actions of the driver of the other car and therefore can avoid an accident. We see a wild animal, sense the danger, and our adrenal glands kick in and we can get ourselves safely away. However, the same is not true when it comes to our souls. It is much harder to see danger that may be headed for our souls. Attacks on our souls are much less evident to us. Unlike our physical bodies, our souls are often caught off guard against the attacks of life. And because our souls are unprepared, we are very vulnerable creatures much like sheep.

This is the reason that Jesus compares us to sheep. Our souls are vulnerable. We need someone to be the Caretaker of our souls. We need the Good Shepherd to restore our souls when we are under attack and on the verge of becoming depleted.

This is one of those times when it feels as if our souls are under attack. But what we need to remember are the words that begin Psalm 23, “the Lord is my Shepherd”. The Lord is your Shepherd. The Lord is the caretaker of our souls.

We can be confident that the Good Shepherd, the Caretaker of our souls, who knows us by name, is present with us each and every day. Thank God, we have a Good Shepherd who makes us lie down in green pastures when our lives become so burdened that we feel as though we cannot make it another day. Thank God, we have the Good Shepherd who cares for our soul enough to lead us by streams of quietness so that we might be restored.

And even during these times when we find ourselves in the dark valleys of our lives, our Shepherd will not forsake us. We will not be afraid because the Good Shepherd will give us all the strength that we need to endure this time of trial and tribulation and we will be comforted.

This is the Good News that we can hang on to. This is the Good News that we can hang on to every day of our lives.

- Rev. Sharon Morris, Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call



**2020 PSEC Annual Spring Meeting**

**“Deepening Our Journey—Deepening Our Connection”**

**SAVE THE DATE NOW!**

**June 4-6, 2020**

The plans for this year’s Annual Spring meeting are coming together nicely. Our theme is **Deepening Our Journey—Deepening Our Connection**. The event has been moved to the **Inn at Reading** in Wyomissing, PA. **Sister Simone Campbell**, author of **“Nuns on the Bus”** will be our guest on Friday! A brief outline of the event is as follows:

**Thursday afternoon**—Boundary, Diversity and Continuing Education for our pastors.

**Friday**—Sessions with Sister Simone Campbell tied to our theme and her book “Nuns on the Bus”. The evening will highlight our Anniversary churches and our opening worship, again featuring Sister Simone Campbell.

**Saturday**—Our conferring session to address the business of the Conference, highlighting our Anniversary Pastors and workshops during the afternoon. This will be followed by our closing worship and the closure of the meeting.

**Watch for registration to open soon!**

