



PRACTICE:

Read the prayer below. Is there a word that catches your attention? What is your invitation and response to these words?

“Come Lord Jesus, touch me with love, life-giving as light, to quiet my anger a little and gentle my desperation, to soften my fears some and to soothe the knots of my cynicism, to wipe away the tears from my eyes and to ease the pains in my body and soul, to reconcile me to myself and then to the people around me, and then nation to nation, that none shall learn war any more, but turn to feed the hungry, house the homeless and care compassionately for the least of our brothers and sisters. Reshape me in your wholeness to be a healing person, Lord...”

-Ted Loder, *Guerillas of Grace*

REFLECTION

John 10:11-15 & 1 John 3:16-20

Jesus is describing himself as “the good shepherd” in one of the “I am” statements in the gospel of John. Jesus is sharing his identity and purpose with those listening to him.

As we move into Eastertide, practicing resurrection, we are reminded that Jesus protects, loves, and cares for us. We are grateful for this and are now challenged to share this love and compassion with ourselves, one another, and the world.

DISCUSSION

What is the job of a shepherd? What words can you think of to describe the qualities of a shepherd? The passage says “I know my sheep and they know me.” How do you “know” the Good Shepherd? Is this shepherd image a helpful one for you?

What does “practice resurrection” mean to you? And how might you do that? (the phrase comes from poet Wendell Berry) How would you describe your identity and purpose in this Easter world?

We declare and respond at Easter, “Christ has risen. He has risen indeed.” How might you share this in your daily life?

