**Wednesday 22nd April**

Psalm 23: 6

Surely your goodness and love will follow me
    all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
    forever.

There is something following you! It is the goodness and mercy of God and if you belong to the Good Shepherd’s flock, this is belongs to you! How extraordinary is the love of God that he should give us what we don’t deserve. The mercy of God towards us is something to marvel at today. Even though we are rebellious and wayward sheep, the merciful goodness of the Lord continues towards us. Jesus told a story of a shepherd who left the 99 sheep in the fold, and went out to search for one that was lost. That is the goodness and mercy of God. He is the God who seeks us out and leads us home. We find our home in Him the moment that we accept our need of Him, and this sense of home continues into eternity. Our home will be with him, forever. And the Bible tells us that this heavenly home is a place of the Presence of God – a place of worship and beauty, and a place without sickness and sorrow.

*Heavenly Father, there is nothing that we could do to earn your love. We are deserving of wrath for the ways in which we have despised your generosity and walked away from you, choosing to shepherd our own lives rather than coming under you loving reign. But thank you that you have demonstrated your glory and goodness in Jesus, and made a way for us to come home. Thank you for your mercy shown through Him. Today we dedicate our lives to you afresh, with hearts full of thanksgiving for all you have done for us.*

*We pray today for those known to us who have wandered away from your love and now feel lost and cold. Thank you that you are the God who searches us out and brings us home. We pray that those that are far off today will return to you again and know your welcoming embrace. In Jesus name. Amen*



THANK YOU!