

St John Church of Christ

December 15, 2019

Order of Worship

Worship Leader: Gary

Gathering Song: No. 997 O Come,
All Ye Faithful (1st verse)

Welcome: Tom

Scripture Reading: Jayce

Luke 2:8-14

Songs

No. 999 The First Noel

No. 1001 Hark! the Herald Angels
Sing

No. 781 Thank You, Lord!

Prayer: Richard

Song No. 18 Faithful Love

Communion: Tom

assisted by

Chris, Fred, Teddy

Song: No. 1017 Away in a Manger

*(Children may go to Children's
Bible Hour during the singing of the
last verse)*

Lesson: What Did the Shepherds
See?

Luke 2:8 - 18

John

*Song No. 915 Trust and Obey (1st
verse)*

Prayer: Terry

(CCLI #244012t9)



A Woolly Quest

Have you ever looked at the Parable of the Lost Sheep from the perspective of the sheep?

Can you imagine what it must be like to be part of a smelly flock of sheep? Don't you hate crowds and being pushed all the time? Just the time you find the perfect patch of grass along comes the crowd to either trample it into the mud or eat it before you can get there! Just when you need a refreshing drink of clear, cold, water, some unthinking sheep upstream muddies things up!

Finally, Leonard (I think Leonard is an excellent name for our sheep), has had enough and breaks free to boldly go where no sheep has gone before. Can you feel his liberation? His exuberance? Free-

dom! Free at last! But when night falls, things begin to change. It is cold in the wilderness, and it is dangerous. Sound is magnified. Every snapping twig becomes a hungry wolf or a vicious bear. The darkness presses in, in a way the flock never did. By the wee hours of the morning, Leonard is overwhelmed with fear.

Now let's visit with the shepherd. It has been a long day, and he is nearly exhausted as he counts the sheep entering the pen. He is the Good Shepherd and knows them all by name. "97...98...99...99...99!" One is missing. Because he is the Good Shepherd, he can't settle for 99 out of 100. He doesn't try to shift

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the blame to the sheep: "Leonard should have known better! He's finally got what he always wanted. He's made his bed, and now he'll have to sleep in it." No, the Good Shepherd immediately begins the hunt. There is a lone sheep lost in the mountains! Filled with concern and at great personal cost, the Good Shepherd begins his quest.

Lone Leonard hears a noise! It's coming closer and closer, but then terror is turned to joy when he realizes it is the Good Shepherd coming to take him home. Poor Leonard is so tired from his ordeal that he can't walk. The shepherd lifts him onto his shoulders and brings him back to the flock. The joy is so intense; it is no wonder the image of the Good Shepherd, with the lamb draped around his shoulders, has been a Christian symbol for over 2,000 years.

Now the question becomes, are you a sheep or a shepherd? Have you wandered away or has Jesus called you to find the lost? Today is the day to begin your own personal quest!



For Your Prayers

There is so much to be thankful for this year. Tom's friend, Larry, came through his surgery well. Stan is doing much better. Baby Jeremiah continues to heal, and there is a wonderful holiday spirit filling St. John.

Let's pray for safe travels this holiday season!

News & Notes

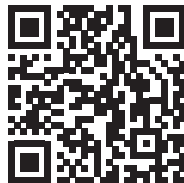
Women's Christmas Dinner

There will be a Christmas gathering for the ladies tonight, December 15 at 6:30 P.M. at the home of Pam Turner. Soups will be provided. You are asked to bring a snack and a gift for the gift exchange (\$10-\$15).

Wednesday Bible Studies

After this coming Wednesday, December 18th, we will adjourn for two weeks for the holidays. Make plans to join us when we resume classes in the New Year.

Visit Our Website



Scan this QR code with your Smart Phone to visit our website:

<https://stjohnchurchofchrist.org>

Follow us on Facebook!

Do you have a news item, prayer request, or event to share with us? Call John McKeel (619) 313-7997.

More About Us

Meeting Times

- **Sundays**
 - ◇ Leisure Homestead 9:30
 - ◇ Bible Study for All Ages 10:00
 - ◇ Worship 11:00
- **Wednesdays**
 - ◇ Community Bible Study 2:00 p.m.
 - ◇ Dinner & Devo 6:30
 - ◇ Bible Classes 7:00
- **Every Other Monday**
 - ◇ Ladies' Bible Class 7:00 P.M.

Elders

- Richard Brensing
- Teddy Gingrich
- Terry Sallee
- George Shelton
- Tom Turner

Deacons

- Jerry Kinnamon
- Chris Mansel
- Orrin Feril

