

Friday News from South West

April 28, 2023

Easter 4, Once Known as “Good Shepherd Sunday”



This Sunday, Easter 4, the suggested lectionary readings are Psalm 23 and John 10. They are, of course, about Jesus the Good Shepherd who said, “I know my sheep and my sheep know me,” and the psalmist (David) who said, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want”.

For most of us, this archaic reference to sheep and shepherds is somewhat foreign. How many of us have spent a night outside, on a pasture or hillside, with a herd of sheep? How many of us know what it is like to be a shepherd?

The last time I was within six feet of a sheep was probably at a shopping mall when I took my eldest grandson, now 22 years old, to an Easter petting zoo. He was probably about five at the time. There was no green grass, no still waters and no valley of the shadow of death. In fact, the hard concrete mall floor was covered with thick wood shavings, the iron fences were well secured and the only food and water available was in buckets within the pens.

What do this Psalm, and this idea of God as our shepherd mean for us today?

Well, hereunder is a modern-day version of the 23rd Psalm, written by a woman named Rebecca Garrett Pace, which I wanted to share with you.

Psalm 23 – rewritten

Jesus is my shepherd, and I honestly feel sorry for him, because I can be quite a stubborn sheep.

I shall not want. Or that’s the way it should work, but yet I always want for more. I’m

working on it.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

Jesus is teaching me how to care. To care for myself, so that I can then care for others. To care for the earth, so I can live in green pastures with still waters and not make a mess of them just because I can. To care for my soul, which is fed by gratitude and joy and kindness. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Unfortunately, he keeps talking too softly for me to hear him, so I keep having to guess what the right paths are, and go on a hunch, and ask for forgiveness when I get it wrong.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil — well that's just wishful thinking. I fear all the time. All the things. So much fear. But I am learning how to sit in the darkness, and be open to what I might learn from it, and really the most important bit is that...you are with me.

Your music, your friendship, your wisdom, your words, your kindness, your presence through others - they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies, and you tell me that there's extra room at the table, and it's actually your table and not mine, so I should scoot over and make room and invite my enemies to eat with me and give them the last piece of homemade bread and extra butter because that's what you would do. Which is annoying but I know you're right.

You anoint my head with oil - you protect and love me, you nurture, you guide, you heal me. My cup overflows. God, I am grateful. I am so incredibly overwhelmed by goodness in my life.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

And when the goodness and mercy are obscured, O God, help me know you're still there.
Always. Forever. Amen.

In peace
Pastor Beryl

Grandma's Verdun

The picture below turned up on a Facebook page I follow. The caption says "Lasalle Boulevard, 1895, known then as Lower Lachine Road".

I surmise that this is in present-day Verdun rather than Lasalle because, why would these two nice ladies have ventured into uninhabited Lasalle in 1895?? In fact, for a long time, what we now know as Lasalle was part of Lachine.

The name "Verdun" was adopted by the local council in 1877. Previously the area was known as the Village of St. Pierre River. At that time, it still consisted of large land grants belonging to wealthy gentlemen farmers with names like Galt, Brault, Hadley, Stephens and Crawford, but over the next decades it would be divided and subdivided and the population would grow quickly.

Council minutes from June 1st, 1885, state: "Bell Telephone Company request a permit in order to erect poles in the municipality. Mr. Andrew Monteith, road inspector, is advised to pinpoint the exact

locations for the said poles.” As the pole at right seems to indicate, by 1895, Verdun appears to have had phone service!

Amy

Text sources: History of Verdun by Julien Deziel, and French Wikipedia page for Boul. Lasalle.

Boulevard Lasalle, 1895.
Elle s'appelait à l'origine
Lower Lachine Road



*A Message from the Mayor of Verdun**

The year 2025 will mark the 150th anniversary of our borough. We hope to make this event a memorable celebration for our community, and in order to do that, we need your input. I encourage you to respond to the call for ideas for Verdun's 150th anniversary. You may submit ideas up until May 15, 2023 on the platform <https://www.realisonsmtl.ca/verdun150e>. If you have any difficulty attaching documents, don't hesitate to forward them to the following email address: verdun150e-Interne@montreal.ca

You have an important role to play in the preparation and organization of this event. We hope you will take the time to share your ideas and suggestions, so that the 150th celebration can be an unforgettable experience for everyone.

We are excited to learn what Verduners are passionate about, and looking forward to working together to celebrate the past, present and future of our beloved Verdun community.

Sincerely,

Marie-Andree Mauger,
Mayor of Verdun and member of the executive committee of Montreal

*Amy's translation

Announcements:

Spread the word! Here's the info about the Artisan Fair and Sale in a nutshell:

Artisan Fair, on Saturday April 29th, from 10am-3pm, and **2-Day Book Sale** starts today, Friday, April 28th and continues Saturday, April 29th from 10am-3pm, at Summerlea United Church, 225-50th Avenue, Lachine. There will be many

artisans displaying their beautiful crafts, delicious home baking, and many books for adults and children at great bargain prices!

A lunchroom serving quiche or chili, & homemade dessert will also be available.

For information call Colleen at 514-634-2651.

Calendar

April 28-29 (Friday & Saturday): Used Book Sale, 10am to 3pm both days/ April 29: Artisan Fair: 10am to 3pm

April 30: Easter Four. Join us at 10am

Sunday May 7: 5th of Easter: Lachine Mayor Maja Vodanovic visiting during coffee hour

Saturday, May 13, 10:00 to 12:00: Jigsaw puzzle sale at Summerlea.

SouthWest Prayer List

John Adnum

Helen Cameron

David Adnum

May Cook

Bridget McCarthy

Donna Cobb

Phyllis Luther

Keith Wood

Shirley Mitchell

Violet L'Esperance

Patrick O'Leary

Roberta Roberts

Doris Smith

Maurice Tringle

If you would like your name added to the prayer list, or if you are requesting on behalf of a family member, call the office or contact Pastor Beryl directly.

Pastoral Care: for emergencies, you may contact Pastor Beryl directly on her cell phone. No calls after 9pm please: 514 942-6212.



SouthWest United Church
225 50th Avenue, Lachine, Qc. H8T 2T7
phone: 514 538-0624
email: southwestunited@gmail.com
Web: southwestunited.net