

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Easter. In the gospel reading, Jesus likens himself to a good shepherd, who cares for his sheep in tender and loving ways, calling them by name, guiding them, protecting them from danger. In this metaphor we are likened to the sheep that follow the voice we have come to recognize as the One who gives life and gives it abundantly.

Each of us has been called by name at our baptism and we have entered more deeply into our relationship with Jesus as we follow by living good and wholesome lives. We have come to recognize the voice of God in our lives – in the quiet of our hearts, in the reading of the Scriptures, in a conversation with another and here in community at the Eucharist.

As we begin our celebration of the Eucharist, let us pray that we may grow more aware of the life of abundance that is offered to us in Christ Jesus. May we recognize the voice of God inviting us to be a blessing of Christ's love to our world this week.

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