

Discussion and Reflection Questions

Lent 2 - I AM the gate - 1st of March 2026

Read: John 10:1-10

‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Questions

1. Jesus contrasts the himself with “thieves and bandits.” Who were these figures in the original context, and who might they represent today?
2. What do you think that Jesus means by his claim: “I AM the gate”?
3. A shepherd in Jesus time lay across the entrance of the sheepfold. Does this change your understanding of Jesus as the gate?
4. Verse 9 says “Whoever enters by me will be saved” (v.9). What does salvation mean to you & what does in seem to suggest in this passage salvation is?
5. The sheep “come in and go out and find pasture.” What does that mean for us in our Christian journey?
6. How do you balance church community and mission in the world?
7. How would you define “life in all its fullness” and abundant life in practical terms?

Prayer

Holy One, open to us the gate of life and lead us into the freedom of your joy. Guard us from all that steals or diminishes, and attune our ears to the true voice of Christ. Give us courage in the journeys that shape us, and gratitude for the day you have made. May our going out and coming in bring life to others. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.