

"MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE"

As we prepare to gather for worship across the Seacoast in our own living rooms and offices for the second time, I am encouraged by the response from our first effort. We did not have much time to prepare and we are learning the technology on-the-fly. (And thanks for your understanding, by the way!) But in uncertain times, when so much – including the church service itself – is taken from us, it is good to have some semblance of normalcy. As I was scrolling through comments on Facebook about the "service", one comment stood out to me: "It was so good to hear [Pastor Ken's] voice."

I couldn't agree more! The sound, timbre, cadence, and even the varied dramatic voices he uses to animate the stories in his illustrations – it is the voice we all recognize. In times of uncertainty it is comforting to hear the voice of our shepherd.

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

John 10:27-28

Jesus is our Good Shepherd, and as comforting as it is to hear Pastor Ken's voice on the internet, it does not compare to the comfort we get in his Word. His sheep hear his voice. Even if you've read the passage before, do you not find the same comfort when you open the pages of your Bible and begin to read? Maybe they are familiar words, or maybe the Holy Spirit quickens something new in you. Either way, in these uncertain times, it is comforting to hear the Shepherd speak to us through his Word. I pray that we would all hear his voice as the ultimate source of comfort as we turn to him in the Word every day.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Grant



QUESTIONS:

1. What are some things that you have found to be reassuring in these times?
2. Do you find yourself turning to God in times of crisis? What are some passages that have been a source of strength for you?
3. Zooming out to all of John 10, we see a bigger picture. What is the bigger picture? What else do we learn about God, Satan and ourselves?
4. Read Psalm 23 for further reflection on our Good Shepherd.