

## Moravian Women's Association – Devotional Paper - April 2025

### *On The Journey Together*

In the Bible, 'walking' is often used as a metaphor for how we live life with God. This is perhaps because it is an activity that most of us, although not all can relate to. In this paper we are going to look at probably the most famous Psalm – Psalm twenty-three. This Psalm is often associated with death and funerals. However, taking the Psalm as a whole and despite the fact that it only uses the word 'walk' once, it is a description of how we might daily walk with God throughout our life.

#### **Read Psalm 23.**

Firstly, put yourself in the position of the sheep when you read this Psalm. The daily walk the sheep take would often have been the same but sometimes – to find fresh grass or a source of water, the shepherd would have to lead them on a different route. The shepherd is in charge! But notice that the shepherd's leadership is not authoritarian or demanding – perhaps we can learn something here about our relationship with God and how we see God's leadership in our own lives.

The journey of the Psalm starts with a place of rest and refreshment (v2) – it describes God's kindness and goodwill towards us. God wants us to have the good things we need for a whole life, but to receive them we need to follow God's lead. As the Psalm continues, we learn that God will give us strength as we journey and will lead us down the paths we should walk (v3). The paths we travel in life with God are paths already known, the problems we encounter are problems God understands and God is always there leading us on.

Verse 4 is probably the best-known verse and is why the Psalm is often used at funerals. Yet, the problems we encounter in life are not just around the death and illness of loved ones and ourselves. We face difficulties around relationships, work issues, mental health – to name just a few. These problems can feel like 'deepest darkness' as the Good News Bible expresses verse 4. It can seem very difficult to cope, but we are assured that God is with us. Notice how in the Psalm, God has been referred to as 'he;' now in the verses describing dark times, the Psalmist refers to God as 'you.' This makes God more personal, closer to us.

The Psalm ends with the promise of rest at a banquet no less, where we will be honoured guests! The Psalmist declares their intention to be faithful to God all their days.

As we continue to journey through Lent and onto Passion Week, may we be able to hold on to the words of this Psalm as we accompany Christ on his journey to the Cross and his Resurrection and be able to hold them in our hearts wherever we are in our life journey.

## Questions

The following questions are reflective, so it may be that Sisters want to think quietly about them and not share as some responses may be quite personal. If that is the case then just give a little space in the meeting for this to happen. However, Sisters may wish to share – that is also absolutely fine!

1. How do you see God's leadership in your life – as an authoritarian presence or as a God who will lovingly lead you?
2. Where are you now on life's journey? Are you in your usual routine or is a change about to happen?
3. When have you felt God's love and protection in your life?
4. When have you heard God's call in your life?

Perhaps when you are at the meeting, you could each write your name on a piece of a paper and fold it up – like the elections at Congregation Council. The each Sister could draw a slip of paper and try to pray for the person named on the slip until the next meeting of your MWA Circle.