

# GARROWBY BENEFICE

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
Agape

## ***Opening Music: Jesus lover of my soul***

### **Welcome and Introduction**

As if this were the only time, and this the only place, and we the only people

**All Jesus Christ will meet us**

As if this were the only time, and this the only place, and we the only people

Let us worship God

## ***Hymn: The King of love my shepherd is***

### **Ministry of the Word**

**All May God guide each of us in the way of Christ  
Whatever our age or experience  
May the love of God speak to us all**

## ***We listen to Psalm 23 from “The Voice”***

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**All Glory to you O Lord**

‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.’

This is the gospel of the Lord

**All Praise to you O Christ**

### **Sermon**

### **Intercessions**

## ***Hymn: The Good Shepherd***

## Agape

Our Lord Jesus Christ was always the guest. In the homes of many followers. He was always the guest. At the meals of the wealthy, where he pled the case of the poor, He was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, He was always the guest. But here at this table He is the host. Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him. Those who want to follow Him must first be fed by Him. Those who would wash his feet must first let him make them clean. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished. This is the time when Christ can make us new. So come you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be his guests.

What we do here, we do to remember Jesus. To his followers in every age, Jesus gave an example and command, rooted in the experience he shared with his disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem.

Today we take this bread and this water, the produce of earth and human labour. In our fellowship and in our sharing, Jesus promises to be present, through these Christ can make us whole.

The Lord be with you

**All And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**All We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**All It is right to give thanks and praise**

It is indeed right, for you made us, and before us you made the world we inhabit, and before the world you made the eternal home in which, through Christ we have a place.

All that is spectacular, all that is plain have their origin in you; all that is lovely, all who are loving, point to you as their fulfilment.

And grateful as we are for the world we know and the universe beyond, we particularly praise you, whom eternity cannot contain, for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.

For his life which informs our living, for his compassion which changes our hearts, for his clear speaking which contradicts our harmless generalities, for his disturbing presence, his innocent suffering, his fearless dying, his rising to life breathing forgiveness, we praise you and worship him.

Here too our gratitude rises for the promise of the Holy Spirit, who even yet, even now, confronts us with your claims and attracts us to your goodness.

Therefore we gladly join our voices to the song of the church on earth and in heaven:

**All Holy, Holy, Holy Lord**

**God of power and might**

**Heaven and Earth are full of Your Glory. Hossana in the highest**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hossana in the highest**

And now, lest we believe that our praise alone fulfils you purpose, we fall silent and remember him who came because words weren't enough.  
**(silence)**

Setting our wisdom, our will, our words aside, emptying our hearts, and bringing nothing in our hands we yearn for the healing, the holding, the accepting, the forgiving which Christ alone can offer. **(silence)**

Merciful God, send now, in kindness, your Holy Spirit to rest on us and on this bread and water that they may be signs of your Grace converting us from the patterns of this passing world, until we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share.

Jesus first born of Mary

**All Have mercy on us**

Jesus saviour of the world

**All Have mercy on us**

Jesus monarch of heaven

**All Grant us peace**

He whom the universe could not contain is always present to us. He who redeemed us and called us by name now meets us as friends together as we share bread and water.

*(The sharing of the bread and water)*

## The Peace

Christ who has nourished us is our peace. Strangers and friends, male and female, old and young, He has broken down the barriers to bind us to him and to each other.

Having tasted his goodness, let us share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All** And also with you

## Concluding Prayer

**All** In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment and one another we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because meeting with you we cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So Lord may we live to your glory both as inhabitants of the earth and citizens of the commonwealth of Heaven.

**AMEN**

## Blessing

Good shepherd, teach us to follow you; to be faithful to our calling and to be shepherds in your name that we might seek to bring all into your fold and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you, your homes and all whom you love, now and always.

**All** Amen

***Music: The song of the shepherd***