



May 3, 2017

## *ABUNDANT LIFE*

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." And we've been wondering ever since what it means to have abundant life.

On Sunday, we will celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, a traditional observance on the fourth Sunday in the Easter season. In the gospel reading, Jesus speaks of himself as the shepherd who cares for the lives of the sheep. The good shepherd guards the gate against the thief. The thief comes to steal and destroy, but the shepherd gives life, and gives it abundantly.

What does it mean to have abundant life? How do we measure it?

We hope for lives that are long, and we hope that we will have much to celebrate in our lives and in the lives of our loved ones. These are wonderful gifts, to be sure. But abundant life is something else, and it is not measured in numbers of days or records of accomplishments.

Abundant life is a gift from God. It is a quality of life that is in communion with God, and it echoes in eternity. On Good Shepherd Sunday, we will practice the act of receiving. We will practice opening our eyes, our ears, our arms, and our hearts to God.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster  
Senior Minister