



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: **Promises of God: The Lord is with You**
Speaker: **Sherin Swift, Connections & Equipping Pastor**
Scripture: **Psalm 23**

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

Psalm 23 (NRSV)

Sermon Outline:

In this part of scripture from Psalm 23, we see the promise of God's presence. When the psalmist writes these words, he is saying so much more than God is with us. **In this sense, God's presence is more than being physically close, it is about being present mentally and emotionally.**

When God says his presence is with us and goes with us, he means we can go to him anytime and he is 100% with us. God's presence is not half-hearted around us, and he is not doing something better or more important when we come to him.

When we know someone is present with us there is a certain sense of security that we feel which helps to calm our anxieties and our fears, knowing that at least we are in this together. Being in the presence of others offers us the opportunity to celebrate with those we are with, while also sharing in those bitter moments that might cause us pain.

Why is God's presence unique to other types of presence? Why is it different from the type of presence that our family and friends offer us?

The psalmist offers two reasons:

- **God is our Shepherd and we are his Sheep.** God cares for us deeply and wants to keep us safe. He is actively guarding, watching, and leading us. God's whole focus is on us, his sheep.
- **God is our Host and we are his Guest.** God welcomes us and savors our presence with him. He delights in taking care of us just for the sake of our company. God never gets bored with us.

Whether you are seeking guidance, comfort, or protection, God is looking to offer this to you. Maybe you are a guest in need of refuge and refreshing, God is also looking to offer this to you. The Lord is with you, won't you come to Him and seek out what you need for this journey?

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Sherin Swift, Connections & Equipping Pastor, continues our summer series on The Promises of God through Psalm 23. Today Pastor Sherin explores The Lord is with You and the assurance of God's presence in our lives.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, did you grow up in a home surrounded by people who you could go to during times when you needed to be comforted and felt protected? Or was this something that those around you were not able to offer you? How does your experience growing effect whether or you are able to approach people for comfort today? How does this affect whether you believe in God's reassuring, never-ending presence?
3. How do you feel when you hear that God does not just tolerate us, but he savors our presence with him, and he enjoys our company? Do you believe this about God? Take time this week to journal your feelings about this and offer them up to God.
4. What do you need from the Lord's presence today, as he longs to give you what you are looking for? No need is too big for God, whether you are seeking guidance, need comfort or protection, desire rest or need healing – God is looking to offer this to you today. Bring this to the Lord in your time of silence this week.