

## **PASTURE by Andrew King**

(John 10: 1-10)

There is a place we can find, a good place  
like quiet meadows where flowers spread,  
like green grasses by gentle streams;  
a place where the heart feels nourished,  
where the mind is hopeful, unhurried,  
where the spirit is glad and at peace.  
We'll name this place fulfillment,  
we'll name it healing and thankfulness,  
we'll name this good place *pasture*  
for there we seek to feed.

And there is a voice we can hear that calls us,  
a gentle voice, melodious,  
a voice like songbirds and laughter,  
like a mother comforting her children,  
like a shepherd calling his sheep.  
We'll name this voice acceptance,  
we'll name it mercy and forgiveness,  
we'll name it the voice of God's love,  
inviting us gently to feed.

It invites us to enter pasture  
when we think we're too hurting to listen,  
too angry or grieving or fearful  
to hear the voice that calls us to peace.

It invites us to enter pasture  
when we're sure we're too busy to listen,  
too burdened or worried or pressured  
to hear the voice that calls us to peace.

It says: Come in and go out and find pasture.  
It says: We are safe with the shepherd of all sheep.  
It says: Meadows await us, in this moment.  
It says: Rest in love. Where you are. Joyfully feed.