

## Christmas Poem

12/25/11

Jesus, you are my shepherd.

Seventeen years old, in my bedroom, alone, in the darkness of night, tears suffocating me.  
Jesus, my shepherd, you heard me when I prayed. I didn't know you then, but you heard me.  
You remembered my prayer for escape from hurtful words and from feeling like I don't belong to either of my divorced parents.

Jesus, my shepherd, you led me into an awkward conversation, to give her my phone number recklessly and later that night to agree to an unusual request.

You spoke to me during that first Bible study, "In the beginning, I created the heavens and the earth. I created you, Cheryl, and I love you!"

You helped me to forsake a two year relationship to wholeheartedly devote my entire life to following you.

My shepherd, you hugged me that night when I had no one to turn to. You gave me direction to know you intimately. That night, I was filled with joy because you are the only one worth getting to know.

Jesus, my shepherd, you were there when I tried to be a perfect Christian, but failed one final exam. But instead of abandoning me, you came closer and revealed that I am more than a conqueror through your unconditional love for me on the cross.

My shepherd, you want me to be fruitful, strong and healthy.

I shall not be in want. In your forgiveness I have victory. In your provision I have abundance. Even in hardship, illness and confusion I am confident in your unconditional love.

You gave me human shepherds to plant your absolute truth in my heart.

You blessed me to marry a gentle, faithful man of God.

You gave me proper co-workers and mentors to be spiritually fruitful at UIC.

When Sh. Adam underwent ear surgery, you sustained me with the glorious vision of your resurrection.

When Sh. Adam and I waited and prayed for your blessing of children, you comforted me that you love me and are working tirelessly to make me fruitful. I praise you for your faithfulness!

Jesus, you will be my shepherd always as we pass calm streams, dark valleys and dangerous terrain.

If you, my shepherd Jesus, have been so good to me so far, I am excited to follow even more closely and learn where he will lead next!

Jesus, you are my shepherd.