



30th April 2023 - Easter 4 Yr A

Greeter: *David* / Leader: *Heather*

Meditation Song: As the deer pants
(please remain seated)

As the deer pants for the water
so my soul longs after you;
you alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.

Refrain:
You alone are my strength and shield;
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you

Welcome:

Greeting:

As we celebrate the risen Christ,
May the Lord be with you
And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

Let's take a moment to be still and aware of the God's presence within and all around us.

Christ Candle:

We light this light to remind us that Christ is here with us.

Christ is always with us.

Acknowledgement of First Peoples:

We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Gadigal and Wangal people and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through law, custom and ceremony.

We honour the wisdom of the Gadigal and Wangal Elders and their continuing culture, and pray that we might all work together for reconciliation and justice in this nation.

Call to Worship: (based on Psalm 23)

You, Oh God are our shepherd and we lack nothing.

You make us lie down in green pastures,

You lead us beside quiet waters,

You refresh our soul.

You guide us along the right paths
for your name's sake.

Even though we walk through the darkest valley,
we will fear no evil,

for you are with us;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort us.

You prepare a table before us
in the presence of our enemies.

You anoint our heads with oil;

our cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow us
all the days of our life,

and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Opening Prayer:

Risen Jesus, thank You for being our Shepherd,
the One who clearly leads our lives.
Stand on the hillsides where we can clearly see You.
Don't let us miss You.
As your sheep, we will look to You,
listen to Your voice, and follow Your leading.
We trust You to be the good Shepherd, the wise Shepherd,
the loving Shepherd, and the strong Shepherd in our lives.
Amen

Hymn: Christ is alive (TIS 387 to tune 376)

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.

Prayer of Confession

We come to God knowing that we have failed to obey the call of Jesus to love God and one another with our whole hearts; but we come also to a God who reaches out to us with healing and reconciliation.

In this knowledge, let us pray:

Forgive us, O God,
for the times when we fail to reach out and accompany
those who are going through difficult times;
those who feel imprisoned in a valley of shadows
and find themselves overwhelmed by life.

Jesus, Good Shepherd,
help us to hear your call to us.
The call to reveal your love, compassion and comfort
wherever you need us to, in our world today.

Jesus, Good Shepherd,
help us to hear your call to us.
The call to reveal in tangible and authentic ways,
your passion for those who feel powerless and to effect real change.

Jesus, Good Shepherd,
help us to hear your call to us.
The call to empty ourselves of all that is contrary to your life within us
so that your goodness is enjoyed and shared by all.
In your name, we pray.

Amen

Words of Assurance:

Jesus the Good Shepherd calls each of his sheep by name
and we hear his voice. Hear then the words of Jesus to us:

‘Your sins are forgiven’.

Thanks be to God

Peace:

May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you

And also with you.

Let's share Christ's peace from where we are seated.

Hymn: For the fruits of all creation (TIS 168)

For the fruit(s) of all creation,
thanks be to God;
for the gifts of every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

Moment for the young at heart: One Lost Sheep **Graham**

Bible Reading: **Chris L**

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:

Psalm 23 is one of the best-known and most often-quoted passages in the Bible. The psalm is commonly used in the context of death and at funeral services. But the psalm's language and imagery may be more fitting for the

season of Easter when the Church tries to discern how to live in the light of Christ's resurrection.

Psalm 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;^[a]

³ he restores my soul.^[b]

He leads me in right paths^[c]
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,^[d]
I fear no evil,

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely^[e] goodness and mercy^[f] shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

John 10:1-10

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Dr Karina Kreminski

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: John

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name.
your kingdom come
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread
forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever.
Amen**

Community News:

Offering Prayer:

God of great gifts:
With resurrection humming in our hearts,
our minds are tuned to your song of peace.
We joyfully give these gifts to you,
a tangible chorus of thanksgiving,
a harmony of hope for your kingdom come.
Amen.

Song: *Morning has broken*

1. Morning has broken, like the first morning.
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning.
Praise for them springing, fresh from the world.

2. Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

3. Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning,
born of the one light, Eden saw play.
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day.

Benediction & Blessing:

Know that wherever you go,
Jesus the Good Shepherd will lead you
to streams of life-giving water,
and will wipe all tears from your eyes.

And the blessing of God Almighty;
Creator, Christ and Spirit
Be upon you and remain with you always.

3-fold-Amen

Pastoral Prayers: Alison

Acknowledgements:

Image: Good Shepherd of Sieger Koger - by Sarah Hornsby

Opening prayer — melanieredd.com

Prayer of confession – adapted from — Moira Laidlaw, [Liturgies Online](#)