



21<sup>st</sup> April 2024 – Easter 4

**Greeter:** Mehry

**Meditation Song:** *Jesus, remember me* (TIS 730)  
(please remain seated)

Jesus remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me.  
when you come into your kingdom.  
(x3)

**Welcome:**

**Greeting:**

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

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Christ Candle:**

We light this light to celebrate that Christ has risen!  
**Alleluia! Christ has risen indeed!**

**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 story, custom and ceremony. We pay our respects to their elders past and present and any Aboriginal people here with us today.

**We pray that we might work together for reconciliation and justice in this land.**

**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 lovingly leads our lives.  
Stand on the hillsides where we can clearly see you.  
Don't let us miss you.  
Help us as your sheep, to look to you,  
to listen to your voice, and to 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: The Lord is my shepherd (TIS 10)**

- 1 The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;  
he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me  
The quiet waters by.
- 2 My soul he doth restore again,  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake.
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.
- 4 My table thou hast furnished  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.
- 5 Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me,  
and in God's house forevermore  
my dwelling-place shall be.

### **Prayer of Confession**

In our prayer of confession, we trust that no matter what we do or don't do, this story ends with love. So, 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 take the time and make the space  
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 take the time and make the space  
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 take the time and make the space  
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 with one another*

**Hymn: Yours be the glory (TIS 380)**

1.Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory over death you've won;  
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes where your body lay.

Chorus:

Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory thou over death you've won.

2.See, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
for the Lord is living; death has lost its sting.

Chorus

3.No more we doubt you, glorious Prince of life;  
life is naught without you: aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:  
bring us safe through Jordan to your home above.

Chorus

**Moment for the young at heart: Brian**

**Bible Reading: Marie**

**Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:**

Psalm 23 is perhaps the most well known of all the Psalms and is regularly used at funerals. Reading well known passages in a different version can often give us a fresh appreciation of it. Today we will hear Psalm 23 read from The Message, written by Eugene Peterson.

**Psalm 23 (The Message)**

<sup>1-3</sup> God, my shepherd!

I don't need a thing.

You have bedded me down in lush meadows,  
you find me quiet pools to drink from.

True to your word,

you let me catch my breath  
and send me in the right direction.

<sup>4</sup> Even when the way goes through  
Death Valley,

I'm not afraid  
when you walk at my side.

Your trusty shepherd's crook  
makes me feel secure.

<sup>5</sup> You serve me a six-course dinner  
right in front of my enemies.

You revive my drooping head;  
my cup brims with blessing.

<sup>6</sup> Your beauty and love chase after me  
every day of my life.

I'm back home in the house of God  
for the rest of my life.

### **John 10:11-18 (NRSV)**

<sup>11</sup> "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes<sup>[a]</sup> it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Hear the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Rev Joy**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People: David**

**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.***

**Hymn: Hymn for Anzac Day (Shirley Murray)**

1 Honour the dead, our country's fighting brave,  
honour our children left in foreign grave,  
where poppies blow and sorrow seeds her flowers,  
honour the crosses marked forever ours.

2 Weep for the places ravaged with our blood,  
weep for the young bones buried in the mud,  
weep for the powers of violence and greed,  
weep for the deals done in the name of need.

3 Honour the brave whose conscience was their call,  
answered no bugle, went against the wall,  
suffered in prisons of contempt and shame,  
branded as cowards, in our country's name.

4 Weep for the waste of all that might have been,  
weep for the cost that war has made obscene,  
weep for the homes that ache with human pain,  
weep that we ever sanction war again.

5 Honour the dream for which our nation bled,  
held now in trust to justify the dead,  
honour their vision on this solemn day:  
peace known in freedom, peace the only way

***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: Christo & Brian**

*Acknowledgements:*

*Image: Good Shepherd of Sieger Koger - by Sarah Hornsby*

*Acknowledgement: based on Assembly Working Group*

*Opening prayer – adapted from [melanieredd.com](http://melanieredd.com)*

*Prayer of confession - adapted from —Moirra Laidlaw, [Liturgies Online](http://Liturgies Online)*

*Benediction: Celtic Blessing*