



Eastwood Uniting Church  
Easter 4B - 25 April, 2021  
Good Shepherd and ANZAC Day

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## Creating Community with God

### *Acknowledgement - God's Land*

Warami Mittigar! [*Darug: Warm Welcome*]

As we gather in this place, we give thanks for the Wallumuttegall clans of the Darug-speaking People.

We acknowledge the commitment their ancestors made, across the generations, to nurturing this Land. Together, may we walk into the future, recognising the sacred footsteps that continue to lead us to the promise of Heaven.

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### *Call to Worship*

As a Shepherd walks among the sheep

**Christ is Risen! Christ is here among us!**

The Shepherd leads us to good pastures and clean waters

**Christ is Risen! Christ is here among us!**

Together, we follow on sometimes narrow and scary paths

**We are Christ's body; We are Christ's feet.**

We are called to love the world for which Christ died

**We are going into the world to be the body of Christ.**

We are called to be resurrection people in the world

**For we are the body of Christ: let us share the Good News!**

### *Song of Praise*

Sing a happy alleluia, sing it out with heart and style --  
we're the echo of God's laughter, we're the image of God's smile.

**Refrain:** Alleluia, all creation, alleluia, everyone!  
Alleluia, all creation, alleluia everyone!

We're the proof of God's good humour, we're the twinkle in God's eye,  
made to shine, reflect the glory, given light and space to fly.

Sarah laughed at God's good timing, Mary sang and David danced,  
Jesus smiled and hugged the children -- so is life for us enhanced.

Every day sing alleluia! We are loved, though so absurd,  
human, foolish, chosen people, God still takes us at our word!

## **Confession and Assurance of Grace**

On this Anzac Day, we remember those who have served our country in the defence forces. We remember all those who have lost their lives in war, those who have lost loved ones and those who continue to be traumatised by the effects of war. We pray for God's comfort, healing and peace in their grief and distress. As the Uniting Church, we remember with thanks our Chaplains who serve in the Defence Force. We pray God will uphold and sustain them in their ministry, as they offer pastoral care to Members of the Australian Defence Force and their families. We pray for peace throughout our world, in the name of Christ, the Prince of Peace.

*From Dr Deidre Palmer, President, Uniting Church in Australia*

We confess that our world is still full of conflict, unrest and disparity, despite the promises in your resurrection.

O God in our humanness,  
We know that sometimes we feel that people who believe differently,  
Or have diverse understandings of right or wrong,  
May be seen as 'not one of us'.  
We turn away from them and close our spiritual doors to their entry,  
Believing that they are not part of your flock.

Forgive us loving Jesus,  
Remind us of the length and breadth of your love for humankind, we pray.  
There are moments when we feel like excluding each other,  
Fearing that we may be challenged or asked to agree to things which trouble us.

Forgive us loving Jesus  
Remind us of the length and breadth of your love for humankind, we pray.  
Open our hearts to recognise the beauty in all who live.

Come before the Christ in hope and faith, people of God.  
The Good Shepherd stands at the gates of grace and invites us into the arms of love.  
You are loved, found and forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Song – Halle Halle Halle**                      Together in Song 720

Halle, Halle, Halle – Iujah! Halle, Halle, Halle – Iujah!  
Halle Halle Halle – Iujah! Hallelujah! Hal-le-lu-jah!

Caribbean Traditional Music by permission Wild Goose Publications © 1994

## **Human and Divine – encountering Jesus Christ**

***A Time for Everyone – Story of the Good Shepherd***

John 10:11-18. New Living Translation

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. 12 A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. 13 The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the money and doesn’t really care about the sheep.

14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, 15 just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.

17 “The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. 18 No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.”

**Song – *I am the Good Shepherd* [c. 2001, Leigh Newton] <https://youtu.be/cDMzyB3wGMc>**

1. I am the Good Shepherd; I’ll watch when you’re weary.  
Each night as you’re sleeping, beside you I’ll lie.  
I’ll share with you every tear, stand with you in your fear,  
Walk in your dreaming and sing in your day.
2. I am the Good Shepherd; the weakest I favour;  
The smallest of all is the greatest I say.  
I’ll risk all I have for you, take on disgrace for you,  
Rather than have you go wandering away.
3. I am the Good Shepherd; ‘though can’t make you linger,  
I’d break every rule for you if you should stray.  
Down to the depths with you, give all I am for you.  
Lay down my life for you, here, every day.
4. I am the Good Shepherd; I’m there when you’re dying;  
Through heartache and sorrow as breath slips away,  
And when life is over, it’s time for another;  
I’ll lift you like infant clean out of the grave.
5. I am the Good Shepherd, I’ll love you forever,  
‘Til heaven has come down and Earth is made new.  
Come live in this world with me, love is your destiny;  
Darkness has faded and morning’s in view.

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### ***Sacred Stories from Scripture***

Skit ‘Testify to love – Episode 3’ [Before the amen p.93]

John 21:1-23

Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened. <sup>2</sup> Several of the disciples were there—Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples.

<sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said, “I’m going fishing.”

“We’ll come, too,” they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night.

<sup>4</sup> At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn’t see who he was. <sup>5</sup> He called out, “Fellows, have you caught any fish?”

“No,” they replied.

<sup>6</sup> Then he said, “Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you’ll get some!” So they did, and they couldn’t haul in the net because there were so many fish in it.

<sup>7</sup> Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, “It’s the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore. <sup>8</sup> The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only about a hundred yards<sup>[d]</sup> from shore. <sup>9</sup> When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread.

<sup>10</sup> “Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught,” Jesus said. <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore. There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn’t torn.

<sup>12</sup> “Now come and have some breakfast!” Jesus said. None of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup> After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” Peter replied, “you know I love you.”

“Then feed my lambs,” Jesus told him.

<sup>16</sup> Jesus repeated the question: “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

“Yes, Lord,” Peter said, “you know I love you.”

“Then take care of my sheep,” Jesus said.

<sup>17</sup> A third time he asked him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Then feed my sheep.

<sup>18</sup> “I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don’t want to go.” <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, “Follow me.”

<sup>20</sup> Peter turned around and saw behind them the disciple Jesus loved—the one who had leaned over to Jesus during supper and asked, “Lord, who will betray you?” <sup>21</sup> Peter asked Jesus, “What about him, Lord?”

<sup>22</sup> Jesus replied, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me.” <sup>23</sup> So the rumour spread among the community of believers that this disciple wouldn’t die. But that isn’t what Jesus said at all. He only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?”

For the stories of Jesus ....

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## *Message*

### *Hymn TiS 659      The Lord is my Shepherd*

The Lord is my shepherd, and I want to follow  
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.  
Over the mountains, the waters and byways,  
valleys and highways, he’s waiting for me.

*I want to go to meet him there,  
to lay myself down in his love.  
The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow  
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.*

And while on the journey to where we are going  
he promised to be there to help us long,  
and over the mountains we'll walk on together,  
to know all the wonders he's given to me.

*I want to go to meet him there,  
to lay myself down in his love.  
The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow  
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.*

Brian Kerry Boniwell 1949- based on Psalm 23 by permission Spectrum Publications (Aust) CCL 65422

## Empowering the Community's Spirit

### *Offering and Announcements*

Let us share in the work of the Good Shepherd,  
And we commit our time, talents and resources.

**Take the gifts of our lives as a sign of our devotion and obedience  
to caring for your world.**

### *Prayers of the People*

O Christ, whose care for the world goes beyond those we know  
and who longs to gather us all into the safety of divine love,  
we pray that we will be gifted with your spirit of grace and justice.

**May we feed the hungry and gather in the lost and lonely  
in a celebration of the care which we experience in you, we pray.**

In the silence, as we bow our heads before you,  
we think of those who may feel outside the compassion of the world,  
pushed away from the gates to the sheepfold.

*Holding our rosemary, in silence, we are invited to read...*

#### ***In A Minute's Silence***

Timeless God,

Christ of the Cross,

Spirit of Peace,

In a minute's silence take us into compassion and understanding.

In a minute's silence may we find ourselves almost walking  
in the shoes of those we remember.

In a minute's silence may we seek the joys that sustained them  
in the trials that they faced.

In a minute's silence may we find the courage that empowered them  
in the suffering they endured.

In a minute's silence may we be inspired to love

like the sacrifice that they made.

In a minute's silence may we comprehend the ripples of pain  
that bounce around the world in response to such disturbance.

In a minute's silence may we learn the lessons  
which will lead to such things never occurring again.

In a minute's silence may we decide to be better in ourselves,  
that the world may be better with us in it.

In a minute's silence may the world change for the better.

In a minute's silence may all this be so.

In a minute's silence we pray. Amen.

(Source: Rev Jon Humphries)

We pray particularly for those who work for peace and try to keep peace  
in dangerous places around the world.

We pray for those who are separated by conflict.

We pray for people who have been displaced from where they call home.

We pray for those families and households who continue to struggle  
with the aftermath of war and conflict... sometimes even generations later.

Hear our prayers, O God.

Our thoughts and concerns are with so many struggling people.

Open our minds and hearts to appreciate the beauty of those  
who are different from us, O Christ, in religion, culture and language.

**Show us what you see and hear in them.**

**Give to us new ways of relating to them with respect and friendliness, we pray.**

Make the life of this church like the warm and welcoming sheepfold  
which comes from your presence within it and among us.

**May we feed the loves of people as you would have us do,  
with the nurturing of true faith**

**and the kindness of those who love others in your holy name.**

**This we pray in humble faith. Amen**

### *Hymn TiS 690      Beauty for Brokenness*

Beauty for brokenness, Hope for despair  
Lord, in your suffering, This is our prayer  
Bread for the children, Justice, joy, peace  
Sunrise to sunset, Your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives, Cures for their ills  
Work for the craftsman, Trade for their skills,  
Land for the dispossessed, Rights for the weak  
Voices to plead the cause Of those who can't speak

*God of the poor, friend of the weak, give us compassion we pray  
Melt our cold heart, let tears fall like rain  
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame*

Refuge from cruel wars, Havens from fear  
Cities for sanctuary, Freedoms to share  
Peace to the killing-fields, Scorched earth to green  
Christ for the bitterness, His cross for the pain

Rest for the ravaged earth, Oceans and streams  
Plundered and poisoned, Our future, our dreams  
Lord, end this madness, Carelessness, greed  
Make us content with the things that we need

*God of the poor, friend of the weak, give us compassion we pray  
Melt our cold heart, let tears fall like rain  
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame*

Lighten our darkness, Breathe on this flame  
Until your justice burns brightly again  
Until the nations learn of your ways  
Seek your salvation and bring you their praise

*God of the poor, friend of the weak, give us compassion we pray  
Melt our cold heart, let tears fall like rain  
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame*

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### **Word of Mission**

Go as people of peace to proclaim good news by word and action.

May the sheepfold of Christ's life hold us fast,  
the rock of the Creator's faithfulness lie beneath our feet  
and the Holy Spirit heal and renew us for each day.

**Amen**

### **Sung Blessing from Tasmania** [Words and Music: © John Macrae, Hobart 2019]

May the west wind breathe softly on your shoulder  
and the gentle rain refresh all life around.  
May the light across the mountain paint your world with brighter days  
as the tall trees lift their heads from fertile ground.  
May the pain of the past meet truth and healing  
and our hoping, loving, giving, bloom and grow.  
May the wonder of our island nurture caring in us all  
and the sacredness of land and living grow.  
May the deep waters carry us to others  
and the gleaming skies direct our thoughts above  
may the beauty all around us fill us body, soul and mind  
and regenerate our world with peace and love.

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Minister: Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler