

In the lush pastures of life that hold meeting places with love,
may your feet know the way to find them.
By the still waters of the running stream,
may your hands shape a cup and drink deep from it.
In the valley of death's shadow that ever threatens,
may your sense of life find the way through.
At the banqueting table set before your enemies,
may your cup be full and overrunning.
Like the anointing oil that runs down your head,
may the blessing that is you spill into the world with eternal promise.
In the way a shepherd's staff warms off lameness from fear,
may trust be your protective companion on the way.
Through each day's living as it unfolds,
may goodness and mercy make their way into every moment.
At the doorway to the house of the Lord of life,
may you recognise your home and your hearth.
And in the song that makes a dwelling-place in your heart,
may its music rise in your soul.

(Source: Roddy Hamilton, Mucky Paws)

We are sent out from our service of worship,
to worship God in service - to be God's people in the world.
May Christ's life and passion inspire you.
May the guarding of God be with you to accompany you on all your paths.
And may the dancing of the Spirit be around you. **Amen.**

*You are invited to be seated for the playing of the postlude,
or to leave at this point without disturbing those who wish to listen.*

POSTLUDE Pastorale J S Bach 1685-1750

Please stand as the Bible is taken from the church.

Presiding Minister	Rev Dr Greg Elsdon
Scripture Reader	Colin Telfer
Organist & Choir Director	Peter Kelsall
Assistant Organist	Christopher Bridge

The Choir of Pilgrim Church
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***Please join us for tea or coffee and fellowship in the Lounge
after the service, or leave by the East Door.***

Please wipe areas you have touched on pews—thank you.



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Pilgrim
Uniting Church

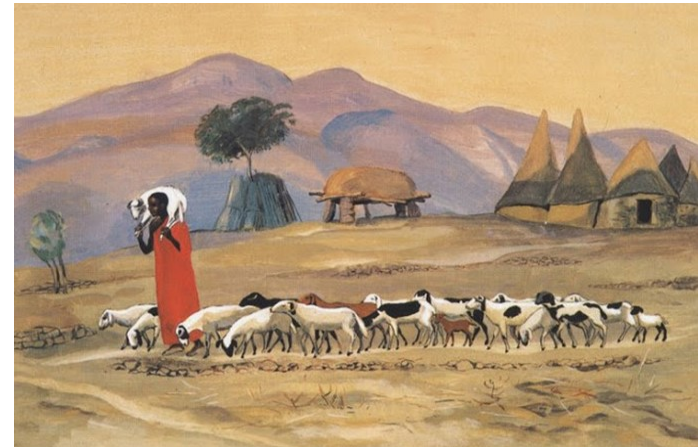
11.00am
Choral Worship

Sunday, 25th April, 2021

Easter 4
COCU34B

The church is fitted with a hearing loop. Hearing aid wearers are advised to sit in the front half of the church and switch their aid to T-setting.

This Service is being live streamed. The Service will also be available for viewing on YouTube at 'Pilgrim Uniting Church Adelaide' for two months



The Good Shepherd [Jesus Mafa]
<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48288>

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

ORGAN PRELUDE

The people stand for the entrance of the Bible.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of life, whose love enfolds us, and spirit fills us,

we praise your holy name.

God of joy, whose sunrise wakes us, and sunset amazes us,

we praise your holy name.

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God of hope, whose promise sustains us, and power upholds us,
we praise your holy name.
 God of love, whose patience humbles us, and touch can heal us,
we praise your holy name.
 God of peace, who breaks down barriers, and walls that divide us,
we praise your holy name.
 God of eternity, who has always loved us, and by grace has saved us,
we praise your holy name
 Let us worship God!

HYMN 143 Come, ye faithful, raise the strain

<p>1. Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness! God hath brought his Israel into joy from sadness; loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters; led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.</p>	<p>3. Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendour, with the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render; comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection welcomes in unwearied strains Jesu's resurrection.</p>
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<p>2. 'Tis the spring of souls to-day; Christ hath burst his prison, and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath risen: all the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.</p>	<p>4. Alleluia now we cry to our King immortal, who triumphant burst the bars of the tomb's dark portal; Alleluia, with the Son God the Father praising; Alleluia yet again to the Spirit raising.</p>
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Words: St. John of Damascus d. c. 754 tr. J.M.
 Neale 1818-1866
 Tune: Ave Virgo Virginum; Melody from J.
 Horn's *Gesangbuch* Nuremberg 1544,
 harmonised by Patrick Russill *Catholic Hymn*
Book 1998

WELCOME

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, O God, when we have participated in ways that turn people against each other, when we have sung with our lips what we have not had the courage to practice in our lives. Inspire us never to give up on the hope that your life offers us, and give us the courage to see past war and violence and live for the day when peace will reign.

A time of silence as we reflect on these words for ourselves

We remember those who fell in battle,
 and those who offered themselves in fighting for a better world.
 We remember their bravery and dedication, their resourcefulness and hope.
**May we be inspired by the determination of those who have served in the fight for freedom, justice and peace — the peace and security we enjoy,
 and for those who in a time of war sacrificed so much. Amen.**

God in community, holy in one,
 we offer our prayers in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 Your kingdom come, your will be done,
 On earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us,
 Save us from the time of trial
 And deliver us from evil
 for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
 Now and forever. Amen.**

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

HYMN 357 Lord of lord and King eternal (omit v 4)

<p>1. Lord of lords and King eternal, down the years in wondrous ways you have blessed our land and guided, leading us through darkest days. For your rich and faithful mercies, Lord, accept our thankful praise.</p>	<p>3. Love that binds us all together be upon the church outpoured; shame our pride and quell our factions, smite them with your Spirit's sword; till the world, our love beholding, claims your power and calls you Lord.</p>
<p>2. Speak to us and every nation, bid our jarring discords cease; to the starving and the homeless bid us bring a full release; and on all this earth's sore turmoil breathe the healing of your peace.</p>	<p>5. Saviour, by your mighty Passion once you turned sheer loss to gain, wresting in your risen glory victory from your cross and pain; now O Saviour, dead and risen, in us triumph, live, and reign.</p>

Words: Jack C. Winslow 1882-1974
 Tune: St. Helen; G.C. Martin 1844-1916

WORDS OF BLESSING AND MISSION

2.

And there's another country I've heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

Words: Cecil Spring-Rice 1859-1918
Tune: Thaxted; adapted from *The Planets*, Gustav Holst 1874-1934

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We make our offerings, small and large, with the hope and confidence that all we do, all we offer, all we say, all we think, and all we hope will take root in this world and be the source of new expressions of God's love, of God's justice, of God's character, of God's mission, and of God's reign. May God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven through us, alongside us, despite us, and for us. **Amen.**

(adapted from a prayer on Mustard Seed)

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

In this world many are thankful for their lives, and many are caught in situations and circumstances they would prefer not to be in, so we offer our prayers for them now.

We bring to mind those who are ill, on the brink of death and those recently bereaved, those who experience distress and sorrow.

In the midst of pain or suffering:

may the Easter message of resurrection bring them solace, support and encouragement.

We pray for those in our country, some whose names we may know, and whose names God knows:

For those who are without homes and without much food, people who find themselves sleeping rough or who must use food banks.

In the midst of pain or suffering:

may the Easter message of resurrection bring them solace, support and encouragement.

We pray for people in the world, most of whom we do not know, but in the knowledge each one is loved by God.

We pray for those who are struggling with drought or lack of clean fresh water,

and those fleeing for their lives or who are too frail to flee and must remain in war zones.

In the midst of pain or suffering:

may the Easter message of resurrection bring them solace, support and encouragement.

(adapted, Rev Allan McCafferty, Church of Scotland)

God of love, our hearts are full of memories for those who served under arms in war.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE *(based on Psalm 23)*

God, you are enough for us. You give us rest in soft fields and beside whispering streams. You restore and renew us, and lead us into life-giving ways. When death and evil come close to us, you carry us through, you protect and comfort us. When others seek to do us harm, your grace uplifts and provides for us in public view. You fill us with your strength and we enjoy overflowing abundance. We have confidence that your goodness and compassion will fill our days, and we will stay immersed in your life and presence forever.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

(John van de Laar - Sacredise)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

ANTHEM The Lord is my Shepherd John Rutter 1945-

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

As we come to the Scriptures, may our hearts be open to hear God's Word afresh. May we respond as willing disciples, to follow the example of Jesus, to serve in the world that God loves so much. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Acts 4: 5-12

5 The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

¹¹This Jesus is

"the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

it has become the cornerstone."

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

In this is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 Chant: C Hylton Stewart 1844-1932

1 The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.

2 He shall feed me in a green pasture
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

3 He shall convert my soul

and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil

for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

5 Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

6 But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Please stand and sing the concluding Gloria

**Glory be to the Father, and / to the / Son:
and / to the / Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and / ever /shall be
world without / end. A / -- / men**

SECOND READING 1 John 3: 16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

In this is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Greater love hath no man John Ireland 1879-1962

Please stand for and face the gospel

A reading from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John: **Glory to you, Lord**

GOSPEL READING John 10: 11-18

¹¹ 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The 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. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes 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.'

The gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

HYMN 589 The King of love my shepherd is

1. The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

2. Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures
grow
with food celestial feedeth.

3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.

4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

5. Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6. And so through all the length of
days
thy goodness faileth never:
good Shepherd, may I sing thy
praise
within thy house for ever.

Words: H.W. Baker 1821-1877 Psalm 23
Tune: Dominus regit me; J.B. Dykes
1823-1876

SERMON

THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION

HYMN 355 I vow to thee, my country

1. I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:
the love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.