

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
DIOCESE OF BALLARAT
ST PAUL'S - BAKERY HILL

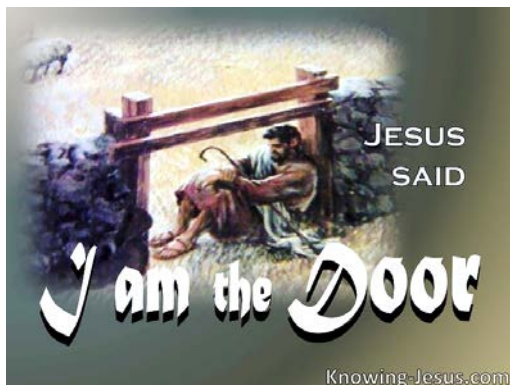


"If God is for us, who is against us?" (Rom 8:31)

Fourth Sunday of Easter
3rd May 2020

***A Year to challenge violence, injustice & oppression, and work for peace
and reconciliation***

Welcome to St Paul's Church in this time! We acknowledge the Wathaurung people, the traditional custodians of this land. We gather in prayer from where ever we are. If you have found this order of service and are using it, please feel free to make yourself known. Contact details are on the last page.



John 10: 7

Worship 9.30am [Zoom]

Contact Sister Elisa to be included via St Paul's email or phone number. See back page.

Dear people of St Paul's,

In this time of separation from our church gatherings, we can affirm and encourage each other in prayer. We can also join in worship at our regular times using this form of prayer which is from the Anglican Churches Liturgy. We will use it on Sunday with our Zoom services but if this is not possible for you, then join us at 9.30 am in spirit.

You can use it on your own or with others around you. You may use all of it or a part of it as suits you. If you have some lovely recorded music which feeds your faith, then add that to the mix also.

Further, I suggest you create a prayer space, in it you could have a candle, a cross and /or a picture, none of these are essential, but may be a help for prayer.

Finally, I pray that this difficult season may be one which, despite hardship, enriches and strengthens your faith.

Every blessing

Sr Elisa

When all are gathered, the presider begins:

In the name of God: Father, + Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Christ is risen. Alleluia!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE SENTENCE "I am the good shepherd", says the Lord. "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. "John 10.11

Prayer of preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, and all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Penitential Rite

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.
Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

cf Romans 6.10

Like Mary at the empty tomb,
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Like the disciples behind locked doors,
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Like Thomas in the upper room,
we are slow to believe.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of Assurance/ *absolution*

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John2: 1-2

COLLECT OF THE DAY: (*pause for silent prayer*) O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: help us when we hear his voice to know him who calls us each by name, and to follow where he leads; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 2.42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

This is the Word of the Lord **thanks be to God**

PSALM 23

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

² **He makes me lie down in green pastures;**

he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

⁴**Even though I walk through the darkest valley,**

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff—

they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

**⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.**

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2.1-10

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷ To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"

⁸ and

"A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;

once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

This is the Word of the Lord **thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. **Alleluia, alleluia!**

GOSPEL John 10.1-10

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

+ Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

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

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

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Reflection - Sr Elisa

Happy Good Shepherd Sunday. Happens every 4th Sunday in Easter.

Two things I have learnt this time around when thinking about this passage.

The first is that it is part of Jesus' argument with the Pharisees after the healing of the blind man in John 9.

Jesus in a very cutting way has told the Pharisees they are blind and in this parable the implication is that they are also predators who want to steal from and damage the flock. They are not so much interested in the flock as themselves-their power, position and perhaps finances.

If you remember the story of the man born blind, it is not until a long way into the story that the man saw Jesus with his eyes. Jesus put mud and spit on his eyes and told the man to go and wash in a pool and he did and as he washed his sight returned. So, when people began to question him, he knew he had been healed by Jesus, but did not know where he was.

The Pharisees, who were already out of sorts with Jesus, refused to believe that Jesus was a man of God, but the man born blind, stood his ground in the truth based on Jesus' actions.

You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. 32 Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

As a consequence, the man born blind was excommunicated from the synagogue.

When he finally met Jesus, the man was ready to become a follower and worshipped him. Thus, he became a member of the fold- one of Jesus' followers.

A sheep who was called by name and recognised Jesus' voice, and came into the fold through the gate, following the voice of Jesus. The voice of the one who cared for him! The voice of the one who healed him and welcomed him into his fold. The voice of the one who did not exclude him because of his ailment but included him because he trusted [for good reasons] that voice. The voice of the Word of God made flesh.

For me, this just deepens my understanding of what the Good Shepherd is like.

The second thing I've learnt this time around is that the shepherd is the gate or door [the Greek word is the same, but we change it because animals have gates and people have doors]. I have always felt a bit confused by the idea of Jesus being both the shepherd and the gate but that's because I saw them as two different things, which on some levels they are.

In ancient near East, the sheep folds did not have a gate as we know it. It had an entrance or gateway and the shepherd would lie across the gate way to keep the sheep in and predators out, so the shepherd functioned literally as the gate. If a predator got in, it could only do so by jumping the fence and so bypassing the gate. [You can see the image on the front of the pew sheet]

So, what does this tell us about the shepherd?

Well he cares for his sheep and lives close to them. He protects them with his own body, his life.

He has a healing relationship with his sheep, who when they respond to his voice, find their lives filled with all they need. Not just food, but relationship with their shepherd and with each other. They know him and he knows them [by name- implies intimacy]. They know him because they listen for his voice.

I wonder if you have ever heard the voice of your Good Shepherd. I have had experiences where I would say I have heard the voice of the shepherd.

- I have heard him say to me that I am loved and belong to him.
- I heard him call me to the religious life.
- I heard him call me to professional ministry.
- I even heard him call me to St Paul's.
- And there are times when I just love being with him. In prayer, in nature, with his people, in silence.

Once or twice it has literally been a voice, and at other times it has been the pull of life which has led me. God speaks in many ways and leads us in many ways.

So, what does all of this say to us about people who have beliefs which are different from ours and their relationship or not with the shepherd?

And what does it say about suffering in life?

These are difficult questions but let's just look at them briefly one at a time.

The story is clear, that to be with the shepherd, we must belong to the flock. I really believe that. The New Testament affirms this in a few ways. They are not identical, but they are connected. For example, when we affirm ourselves as the body of Christ, we affirm that we are not individuals but a community of people who together reflect the fullness of God in human form.

Jesus, in his life, travelled around and built a community of disciples who learnt from him and worked with him and shared in his mission. As God's people we are all called to do this. In our reading from Acts 2 this morning, we heard that the early church was like this:

44 All who believed were together and had all things in common;

And in 1 Peter we heard

You ...are a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

None of this means we can't be respectful of others with different beliefs, nor does it mean that we can't have relationships with people of different beliefs. Jesus moved in and out of communities whose beliefs were different to his all the time, and those who did share his beliefs such as some of the Jewish leaders were often the very people who opposed him and roused his own frustration and anger. So, the lines are not that clear. And it is not always about

belief [that is belonging to the right group], but more about faithfulness and love.

The second question.

If Jesus is a shepherd who is the guardian and protector of his flock, then why is there suffering?

The answer to that is clear. Because predators do not only go for the sheep, they go for the shepherd. Thus, Jesus laid down his life for the sheep and the flock was scattered. In the Acts of the apostles, this very thing happened and resulted in the dispersion of the church and the spread of the Gospel. When Stephen the first martyr died, the followers of Jesus ran out of Jerusalem to escape their own persecution and the faith journeyed with them as they went.

When the man born blind was excommunicated from the synagogue, he found a new family in the church.

All of this speaks of relationship with God and trust at the deepest level. Recognising that it is God who is in control, and in some way which might at times seem mysterious to us, is protecting us, so we remain in his flock. The protection is from those who would come to steal and destroy us. Not just our bodies, but our spirits and beings, our quality of life. If we die as members of Jesus' flock we are promised a home in the Father's house, but if we are mortally damaged by people who oppose the purpose and will of God, our place in the Kingdom is threatened and that's the focus of Jesus' life, why he died and why he forgives us, and fills us with his Spirit. Therefore, we can entrust ourselves to him and follow in his way.

No one image or idea covers all that is God and Jesus, but the shepherd, who is known by his sheep and leads them in safe ways, who is the gate to his sheepfold, the one through whom we must enter is a beautiful image and one which helps us to know him a little better.

Silence for reflection.

We say the Apostles Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, light of the world,
bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations ...
We pray for wisdom for our leaders, in these days of Covid19.
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life,
give food to the hungry, work to the poor, love and community for the
lonely and anxious and rest for the weary ...
and nourish us all with your Word.
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,
be with us and all who follow you in the way ...
We pray for all of your churches in these days of social isolation and
give thanks for the creativity of people in empowering ministry and
worship to continue. Deepen our appreciation of your truth
and fill us with your life.
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,
recover the straggler, bind up the injured, strengthen the sick,
especially those who have Covid 19.
those who have asked for our prayers...Keith, Bert, Mandy, Joyce, Jean,
Carmel, Hazel, Heather, Stephanie, Tamara, Andrew, Aaron, Sue, Vera,
Jenny, Jan, Fr Peter, Seth, Corey, Michele, Gillian, Pauline.
And any whom we hold in hearts this day...

pause for a time of silent prayer.

We pray for all doctors, nurses and carers.
and that you lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you ...
Raise us with them to eternal life.
Jesus, Lord of life,
**in your mercy, hear us,
accept our prayers and be with us always.
Amen.**

Alleluia! We are the body of Christ!
His Spirit is with us! Alleluia!
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you. Amen.

[We wave to each other as a sign of peace]

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Prayer

O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Thanksgiving, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son, we offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though we are dispersed from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Salvation we pray that you will unite us with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us. **Amen.**

The celebrant begins the Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The preface continues...forever praising you and singing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Eucharistic prayer continues...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The prayer concludes with ...in songs of never ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever.

Amen.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

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 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body in Christ,

for we all share in the one bread.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us;**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us celebrate the feast.

The body of Christ broken for you.
The blood of Christ poured out for you.

Prayer after Communion...

Eternal God, giver of life, in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord. May we who celebrate this holy feast walk in his risen light and bring new life to all creation.



Father we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your spirit, to live and work to your praise and glory, Amen.

THE BLESSING

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will;
and the blessing ...

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!
In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia!

All parish activities are on hold or under assessment until further notice

Readings for next Sunday Acts 7.55-60, Psalm 31.1-5, 17-18, 1 Peter 2.11-25, John 14.1-14



Urban & rural matters

Let the sowers of seed bless you, great God,
the gardeners and farmers sing your praise.

Let those who work with computers bless you, great God
Those who sweep the offices sing your praise.

Excerpts are taken from Canticale 11, p. 456; Canticale 10, p. 455 in *Out of the Silence ... Into the Silence* by Jim Cotter. Cairns Publications, Harlech, 2006. Used with permission.

Whether we are concerned for herd or bushland or whether we commute to work or mind our grandchildren let us see God's hand in our human enterprise. Loving God, give us the wisdom to love your creation and make the best habitation for all peoples.

All these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the Lord your God:

Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field.

Deuteronomy 28:2-3

Modern day slavery is a priority concern of the Canterbury Zone which includes much of Europe. Refugees are the primary victims; their skills are abused in both city and rural areas. We pray God's blessing on members raising awareness and offering care.

PLANT SALE

Gardening tips for our November Plant Sale –

Our May Plant sale was to be held this Saturday and our plants were ready for sale so we need to keep looking after them in readiness for the possibility of the lifting of isolation regulations allowing mass gatherings and a possible plant sale.

Things to do in the garden for our November sale--when it stops raining - hardwood cuttings from plants, trees and bushes can be put into pots, watered and sat in a plastic bread bag, tied at the top creating its own hot house. Divide and plant bearded irises and polyanthus, chill in the bottom of the fridge for 3 weeks hyacinths, crocus and tulips and bring frost tender and indoor plants inside.

Books -a great time to sort out the bookcase for our book stall in November--and tell family and friends, can be collected later when we are able to get out and about.

Sheep poo is for sale in \$1 & \$2 bags contact Avis - mob 0408 801 192, Noella 0418 501 382, or Deirdre 0408 433 481 to order.

METAL COLLECTION

June is Metal Collection Month - keep collecting metal items also car and bike batteries

ANGLICARE

Items which are currently required for the Emergency Relief program are: tissues, toilet paper, pasta sauce, long life milk and any other long life food items. Please feel free to drop them in to Anglicare during opening hours.

EQUEST FOR KNITTING YARN

I am reclaiming knitting yarn to be remade into warm jumpers for Syrian children in orphanages and refugee camps. If you are having a sort through during this time of Covid19, and you have any knit wear that could be unpicked please let me know. This might include anything that is too small/too big, out of fashion, or wouldn't sell in an op shop. Yarn would preferably be 80-100% wool. Small or large quantities are welcome. As you know a lot of natural and man-made fibres end up in landfill when it could have a very useful second life. Any new yarn that you may not need would also be welcome.

Please ph: 0429 092 205 if you have any questions or would like to arrange a contactless pick-up.

Many thanks, Sue Lanyon

Parish Directory

Bishop

The Rt. Rev'd Garry Weatherill

Parish Priest Sr Elisa Helen, CSC

Tel. 5332 6479 [leave a message]

Associate Clergy

The Rev'd Canon Geoffrey Tisdall

The Rev'd Malcolm Thomas

The Rev'd Deacon Bert Muysers

Parish Secretary: Lisa Smith

Organist: Ken Turner

Wardens:

Bryan Crebbin

Mark Stewart:

Heather Clinton

Treasurer: Mark Stewart

Parish Council Secretary:

Lisa Smith

St. Paul's Office *[closed during Covid 19 restrictions]*

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