

# Sunday Worship

Sunday, 26 April 2026

Easter 4 A

ANZAC Day

## Greetings and Welcome

Christ is Risen!

*He is Risen indeed.*

Today, we hear of a community shaped by shared life, prayer, and generosity. Of a shepherd who leads, restores, and remains present even in the darkest times. We are called to follow Christ's example, not in silent suffering, but in turning toward life. Jesus stands as the gate, calling us by name into an abundant life. And on this ANZAC Day, we remember sacrifice and courage, and ask what it means to choose the path that gives life to others.

So, come into this abundant life to worship God. We share this life as we acknowledge diverse understandings, identities, relationships, and languages. Let us say good morning in different languages, connecting us with one another and with this land.

Balka wittaberri! (Goreng Goreng)

*Balka wittaberri!*

בֹּקֶר טוֹב! [Boqer Tov] (Hebrew)

*Boqer Tov! [boker tove] (Hebrew)*

καλή μέρα! [Kalí Méra] (Greek)

*Kalí méra! [Kalay merra] (Greek)*

Goeie dag! (Afrikaans)

*Goeie dag!*

Goedemorgen! (Dutch)

*Goedemorgen! (Dutch)*

Buongiorno! (Italian)

*Buongiorno! (Italian)*

Noa'ia! (Rotuman)

*Noa'ia! (Rotuman)*

Magandang Umaga! (Filipino)

*Magandang Umaga! (Filipino)*

Zou San! (Cantonese)

*Zou San! [jaow sun] (Cantonese)*

Marhaba! (Arabic)

*Marhaba! (Arabic)*

Parev! (Armenian)

*Parev! (Armenian)*

G'day! (Australian)

*G'day! (Australian)*

## **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

As the light of new life shines out from the Empty Tomb,  
so may we in this Easter season shine with the light of hope and share the  
promise of life.

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

*As we gather in this joyful Easter season to worship God, let us take a moment  
to acknowledge the land and all the resources that God has graciously made  
available for us:*

For this Land

*We give thanks!*

For the First People who cared for this land

*We give thanks!*

For all nations and people who live on this land

*We give thanks!*

We honour the custodians  
of sacred stories,  
of dreamings  
and the connections  
with the deep earth.

*May we work together  
for the restoration  
of the Land  
and Her Peoples.*

## Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 118)

In the laughter of children,  
we hear the voice of the Gate of the Way,  
and find our way home.

*In the lap of a parent,  
God's compassion cradles us  
in the still waters of love.*

The Shepherd of our lives  
leads us through that door  
into life with him forever.

*We are baptised with living waters  
which refresh us, restoring us  
to follow Jesus all our days.*

The Holy Spirit, Keeper of truth,  
is the Light that guides us  
through every shadowed moment.

*The Breath of life stills our worries  
and fears, as we are led to that  
peaceful place of God's heart.*

### Praise Hymn:

### Jesus Messiah

*Psalm 23 begins "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." Name above all names, the rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven. As we stand to sing Jesus Messiah, we worship the One who fills our cup to overflowing and invites us to dwell in his house forever.*

### Prayer of Invocation/Adoration/Thanksgiving/Approach

*He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.  
Let us approach God, our shepherd.  
let us pray:*

Sustained by your living waters,  
we are at peace in seas  
of stress and success;

detoured onto those walkways  
leading to your joy,  
we find our way out of mazes  
of meetings and deadlines;

nourished at your picnic  
in that garden of grace,  
our shredded souls  
are anointed by your healing;

you slow us down just enough,  
as we try to escape  
the very lives we think we want,  
so goodness and mercy  
can catch up with us  
and carry us into your heart.

May you always be with us on our journey,  
God in Community, Holy in One,

Amen!

**Praise Time:                      The Lord is my Shepherd & I Am Carried**

*In Psalm 23, we are reassured that “He leads me beside still waters... even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.” In our praise songs today, we are reminded that our Shepherd not only leads us faithfully, but also carries us when the path is hard; so we can trust that, in every moment, we are held and never alone. Please stand to praise the Lord in song.*

## Prayer of Confession

*Day by day, God leads us to the places of hope and healing, while moment by moment, we continue to follow sin down all the wrong paths. Let us confess our lives, as we draw near to the One who restores us to wholeness. Let us pray:*

God of our lives,  
we know all too well the wrong paths to foolish lives and repeated mistakes.

Stirring up trouble in the waters comes easily to us. And locking the doors of our hearts so we don't have to love others is second nature to us.

God of Mercy,

Forgive us.

May our hearts overflow with hope for others,  
as you anoint us with healing oil.

May we share from your abundance  
with all who hunger for life.

May we follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour,  
to the places of service and life with you forever.

Silence is kept

Amen.

## Declaration of Forgiveness

Our Comforter leads us to that place where the Table is spread with grace,  
and God declares:

Your sins are forgiven!

*Thanks be to God.*

## The Peace

The Lord leads us to green pastures and still waters.

The Lord gives peace to our bodies, our minds and our souls.

The Peace of the Risen Christ be with you.

*And also with you.*

## Announcements/Notices

### ANZAC Day commemoration

Today, we set aside a brief moment to honour the courage and sacrifice of the brave ANZACs, past and present, who have served in the Australian Defence Forces.

In the spirit of remembrance, I invite you to participate in a small yet significant act. If you have any memorabilia or items of remembrance associated with the ANZACs, I encourage you to bring them forward and place them on the table. These items serve as symbols of our collective gratitude and reverence for those who have served and continue to serve.

As we reflect on their legacy, let us hold in our hearts all those who have made sacrifices for the greater good and all those who have served the stranger. Together, may we offer our thanks and prayers for their service and commitment.

## The Ode

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*

## A minute of Silence

## Prayers of Intercession

*Our notices are part of our service, so we bring them to God. Our prayers reach beyond ourselves and our congregation. God calls us to care for all creation, so we join the World Council of Churches' prayer cycle and pray for Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. We also remember the 111<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ANZAC Day and the Armenian Genocide.*

*Include other events or incidents that you will be praying for.*

*Note: You can find some prayers for this week on my blog, Prayers.*

*Let us pray for the church, for our community, and for the world.*

God of remembrance,  
help us this day to remember the sacrifice of the first ANZACs at Gallipoli.  
In your hands are the destinies of this and every nation,  
We give you thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in this land  
And for those who lay down their lives to defend them.  
We pray that we and all the people of Australia,  
Gratefully remembering their courage,

May have the grace to live in a spirit of justice, generosity, and peace.  
We pray that people around the world,  
Remembering their sacrifice in providing aid to a nation being massacred,  
May have the compassion to reach out to those in need.

God of mission and movement,  
You call us not to sit still but to step out:  
to serve, to give, to love, and to proclaim.  
Bless the activities of our congregation.  
Bless us when we are present to someone in need.  
May our efforts bear fruit, not for our glory but for Yours,  
that in all we do, Your grace may be known.

God of every joy,  
we give thanks for this special moment,  
that we are blessed today to celebrate 30 years  
of witness, life, love, and meaningful work.  
Bless the years ahead with grace  
and may all that is celebrated today  
bear fruit in witness, love and faith.

God of healing,  
your Word speaks of your mercy, bringing wholeness to the broken and  
renewal to the weary. Heal all who are sick or suffering, easing their pain and  
lifting their spirits. May your presence bring relief, comfort, and hope to those  
in need of healing.

In the silence of our hearts, we raise to you the names of those we know and  
remember:

— A moment of silence. Mention names —

We also bring to you those we forgot and those we do not know.

Open our eyes and give us the wisdom to see where we can bring your healing and hope in our relationships, neighbourhoods and communities as your hopeful and compassionate people.

God of peace,  
bring calm to the tensions between Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.  
Guide leaders toward wisdom and reconciliation.  
Heal old wounds, stir forgiveness  
and let your justice and peace take root and grow.

Grant us all the resolve to advocate for peace, to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, as we join the universal church in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Hymn/Song:**

### **Goodness, Love and Mercy**

*Psalm 23 tells us that "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." For You are with me and You comfort me. As we prepare to hear the word of God, let us remember His promises to us; a love that never lets us go and a mercy that follows us wherever we wander. Please stand to sing Goodness Love and Mercy.*

Do not read the titles (black or red text in bold)

### **Prayer of Illumination**

*Let us say the prayer of illumination together.*

*Open our eyes, gracious Lord, as we turn to your word.*

*We long to know you, to understand life, and to be changed.*

*Examine us, Lord, by the floodlight of your truth.*

*Amen.*

**Scripture****First Reading: Acts 2:42-47****Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25****Gospel Reading: John 10:1-10****Acts 2:42-47**

*The First reading is from the book of Acts, chapter two, verses forty-two to forty-seven. Listen now for the word of God.*

- 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
- 2:43 Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.
- 2:44 All who believed were together and had all things in common;
- 2:45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.
- 2:46 Day 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,
- 2:47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**1 Peter 2:19-25**

*The Epistle Reading is from the first epistle of Peter, chapter two, verses nineteen to twenty-five. Listen now for the word of God.*

- 2:19 For it is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly.
- 2:20 If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God.
- 2:21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.
- 2:22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

- 2:23 When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.
- 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.
- 2:25 For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

For the Word of God in Scripture

For the Word of God among us

For the Word of God within us

*Thanks be to God*

### **John 10:1-10**

*The Gospel reading is from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, chapter ten, verses one to ten. Listen now for the Word of God*

- 10:1 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.
- 10:2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.
- 10:3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
- 10:4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.
- 10:5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.”
- 10:6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.
- 10:7 So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.
- 10:8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them.
- 10:9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture.
- 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

*Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

## Children's Story

**Sermon:**

**Who will you be when history calls?**

**Hymn:**

**Let me be as Christ to you (Brother Sister)**

## Prayer for Offering

As we offer our gifts this day, may we join Mercy and Goodness in being in the lives of all who long for rest, who hunger for hope, who thirst for living waters, and who ache to be part of your community of grace and peace. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray.

Amen.

## Communion Song

## Living Waters

*Psalm 23 reminds us that "He leads me beside still waters, He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths..." Are you thirsty? Are you empty? Come and drink these living waters. As we prepare to share in the sacraments of Baptism and Communion, we remember that Christ is our living water, refreshing our lives with mercy and love. Please stand to sing Living Waters.*

# Communion

## Invitation

This is the table of abundant life to which Christ our Lord invites us. In baptism, we are joined to Christ and to one another, and here we are shaped again for lives given in love. So come, and discover who you will be when history calls.

## **Narrative Of The Institution Of The Lord's Supper**

*Hear the words of the institution of this sacrament, as recorded by Matthew, in chapter 26 (this is from the Message Translation):*

During the meal, Jesus took and blessed the bread ..., broke it, and gave it to his disciples:

Take, eat.

This is my body.

... Taking the cup and thanking God, he gave it to them:

Drink this, all of you.

This is my blood,

God's new covenant, poured out for many people  
for the forgiveness of sins.

"I will not be drinking wine from this cup again until that new day when I drink with you in the kingdom of my Father."

And so, according to our Saviour's command, we set this bread and this cup apart for the holy supper, remembering his call that we must not let familiarity breed contempt, and we come to God with our prayers of thanksgiving.

## **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

May the God of gates be with you!

*And also with you!*

God calls us to open our hearts to others,

*for they are filled to overflowing with grace.*

Every day, let us rejoice in the Restorer of our lives.

*We sing glad songs to the One who leads us.*

God of patience,

you watched over creation

as it emerged out of nothingness:

meadows where sheep could rest,  
still pools of water teeming with tadpoles,  
paths worn smooth by mountain goats.

You shaped us in your divine likeness,  
anointing us with the Spirit's breath of life,  
so we could wander the garden by your side.

But that thief, sin, and that bandit, death,  
climbed into Eden by another way,  
and we followed their voices.

Day by day, you sent prophets to us,  
who challenged us to lead God-centered lives,  
but we devoted ourselves to that life  
which is empty and bitter.

So then you sent Jesus,  
shaped in human likeness, to us,  
so we would know you are with us.

With those who walk your paths,  
with those who long to find their way,  
we offer glad and generous hearts to you:

*Holy, holy, holy are you, Guardian of our souls.  
All creation praises you day after day after day.  
Hosanna in the highest!*

*Blessed is the One who trusted in you alone.  
Hosanna in the highest!*

You lead us to this Table  
where we want for nothing,  
for your Spirit transforms  
everyday foods into a sacred feast.  
Your bread and cup comfort us,  
nourishing us so we might be together  
in everything with our siblings.

The broken bread strengthens us  
to provide clean, still waters to all;  
to build shelter for those who sleep rough;  
to feed those who are hungry.  
Your grace overflows into us so we may offer  
companionship to those who  
wander shadowed valleys;  
an open gate to those  
longing for a community;  
voices of compassion  
and hope to the oppressed.

When we follow goodness and mercy  
to the end of time, we will find you  
coming out of the kitchen,  
setting dish upon dish of peace and hope  
on that great table prepared for all your children,  
and we will join our hearts and hands  
as we sing praise and wonder to you,  
God in Community, Holy in One.

Amen.

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

... Christ is the bread of joy, who shares food with sinners

... Christ is the cup of life, who revives the faint-hearted.

Let us receive what we are;  
Let us become what we receive.

*The body of Christ.*

## **Distribution of the Elements**

## **Prayer After Communion**

Let us pray:

We thank You, God, our Creator, for Word and Sacrament, through which we receive Your Son, true Bread of Heaven. In this meal, you shape us for lives given in love, to choose life when history calls; yet not us, but through Christ in us. Strengthen us in Your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Hymn After Communion: Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me (v1-3)**

*Psalm 23 says, "I will fear no evil, for you are with me." The night is dark, but I am not forsaken. For by my side the Saviour he will stay. The Shepherd walks beside us, so that every step we take is not by our strength, but through Christ in us. Please stand to sing Yet Not I But Through Christ in me.*

**Blessing**

Christ is Risen.

*Christ is Risen indeed. Hallelujah!*

Go now, listening for the voice of the Shepherd,  
and choose the path of abundant life.

Stand with those in need,  
crossing the distance when others turn away,  
offering your life in love,  
and living as people shaped by Christ.

And may God lead you to places of rest and renewal;  
May Christ Jesus give you life in abundance;  
And may the Holy Spirit fill your hearts with gladness and generosity.

Amen.

**Blessing Song**

**Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me (v4)**