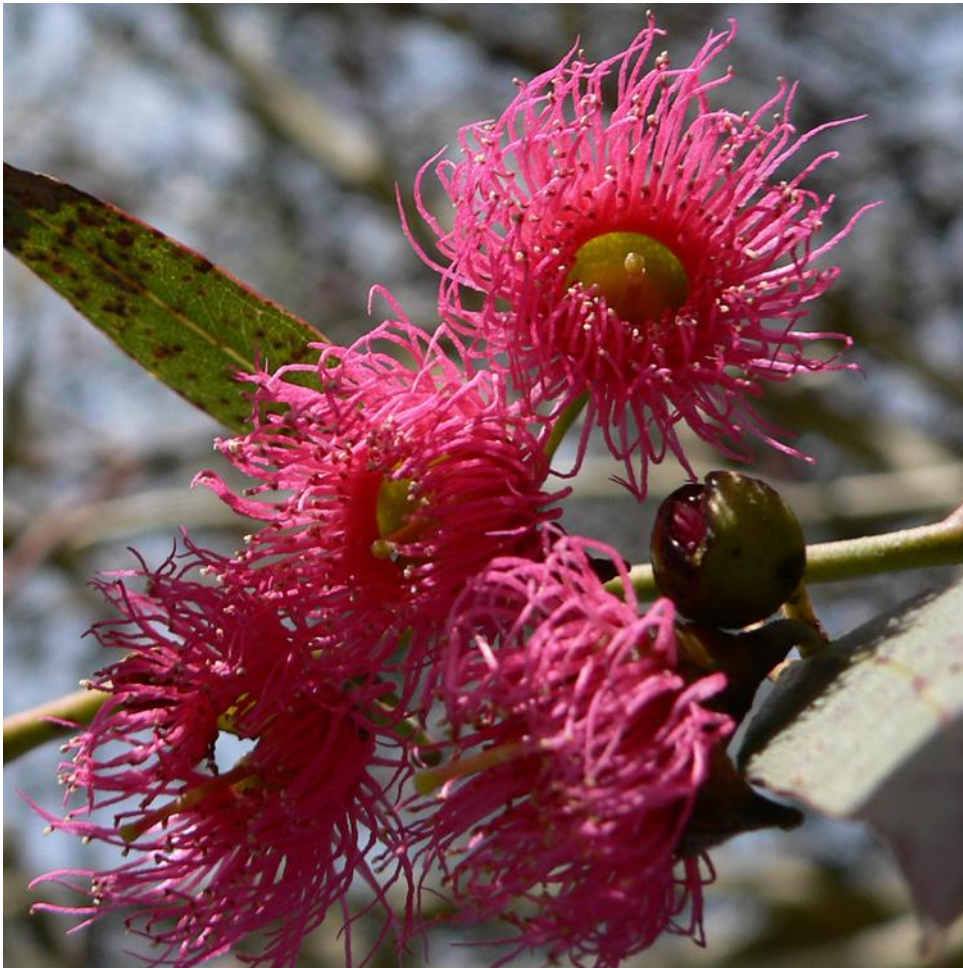


Mooroolbark St. Margaret's Uniting Church

Easter 4+ Sunday

21st April 2024

Rev. Jinseon Park

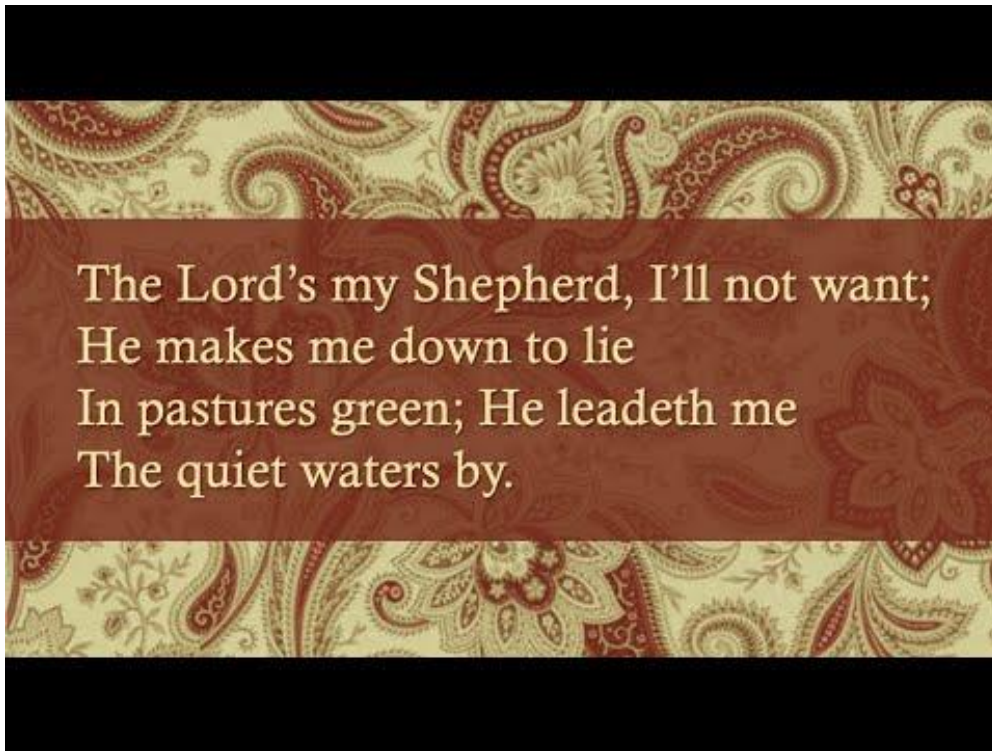


ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

God's Spirit brought life to this land and blessed your Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, traditional custodians of this land. Before explorers and settlers came to this land, your Spirit was in this place. Your life-giving Spirit connects us to one another. May we, in community, celebrate your Spirit within and among us

▪ THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Introit Hymn TIS 10 The Lord is my Shepherd



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.

Welcome / Greeting

Call to Worship-

In this time of worship and throughout our lives, we call on God.
In moments when we search for the power to act justly,
Let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

In situations when our lips long for powerful words to speak,
let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

At times when we feel lost and need to find the power to follow,
let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ Nazareth.

When it is easier to hate, and we desperately need the power to love,
let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ Nazareth.

God offers salvation, transformation, solace, and refuge.
In it, we obtain the power to act,
the power to speak the power to follow, and the power to love.
In all we do and all we say, let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ Nazareth.

Let us worship God!

Prayer of Invocation and Confession.

Loving and living God,
we gather together today,

guided by you, our Shepherd.
You protect and care for us;
you lead us as we journey through life.
During this time of worship,
we ask that our ears are open to hear your word,
our eyes are open to see your light,
our hearts are open to feel your love,
and we have heard the commandment to love one another.
May our worship be a testament to your love
and our dedication to love one another. Amen.

Standing before the religious authorities in Jerusalem, Peter cried out, “the stone rejected by you, the builders, has become the cornerstone.” Like those who threw Peter and John in prison and placed law before love, we too confess that we have rejected the stone that is Christ Jesus. In our doubt, we have turned towards false securities, hopes, and promises. In our ignorance, we have invested in artificial love and cheap grace. In our defiance, we have denied our beliefs and ignored your guidance. We, too, have rejected the stone in these ways and other.

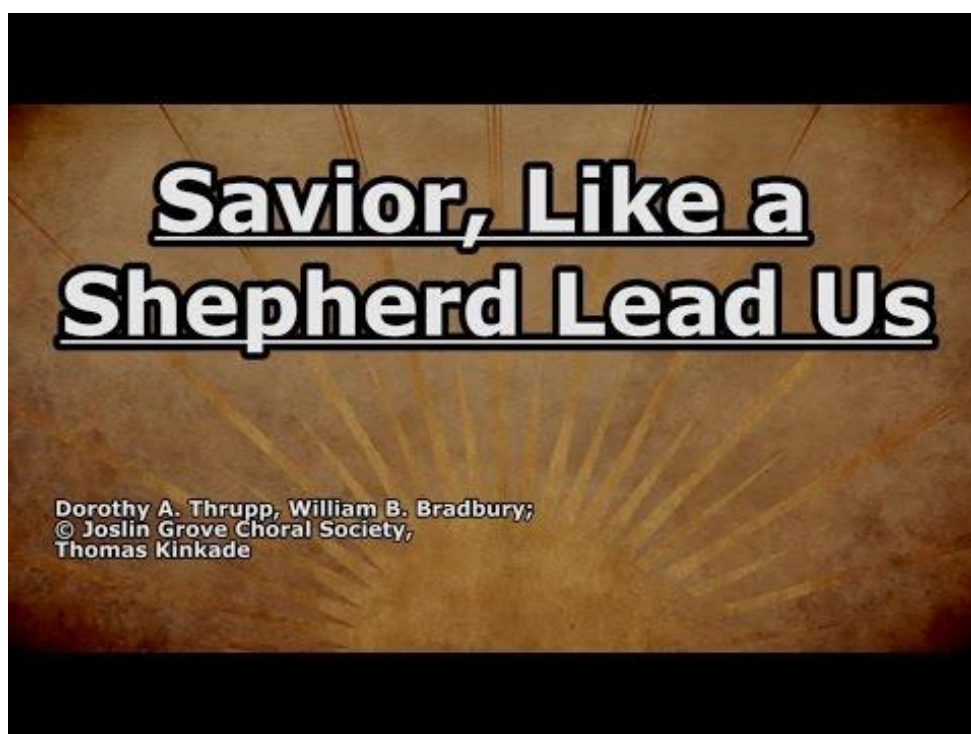
In this silence, we confess our acts of rejection now (Pause).

Here our confessions as recognition for wrongs done in the past and hope for transformation to come. Amen.

Words of Affirmation

People of God,
be assured that even though the stone was rejected,
it now sits as the cornerstone, ever-present, ever-forgiving, ever-lasting.
You are forgiven, stand firm on this foundation,
proclaiming the name of Jesus Christ now and forever. Amen.
Thanks be to God!

Hymn “Saviour, like a shepherd lead us”



Sharing the Peace

God's peace be with you.
and also with you.

▪ SERVICE OF THE WORD

Acts 4:5-12

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.

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners* stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let 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. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone."* There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

John 10:11-18

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

"I am the good shepherd*. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No 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."

1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us - and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How 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? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. 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. All 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.

*For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,*

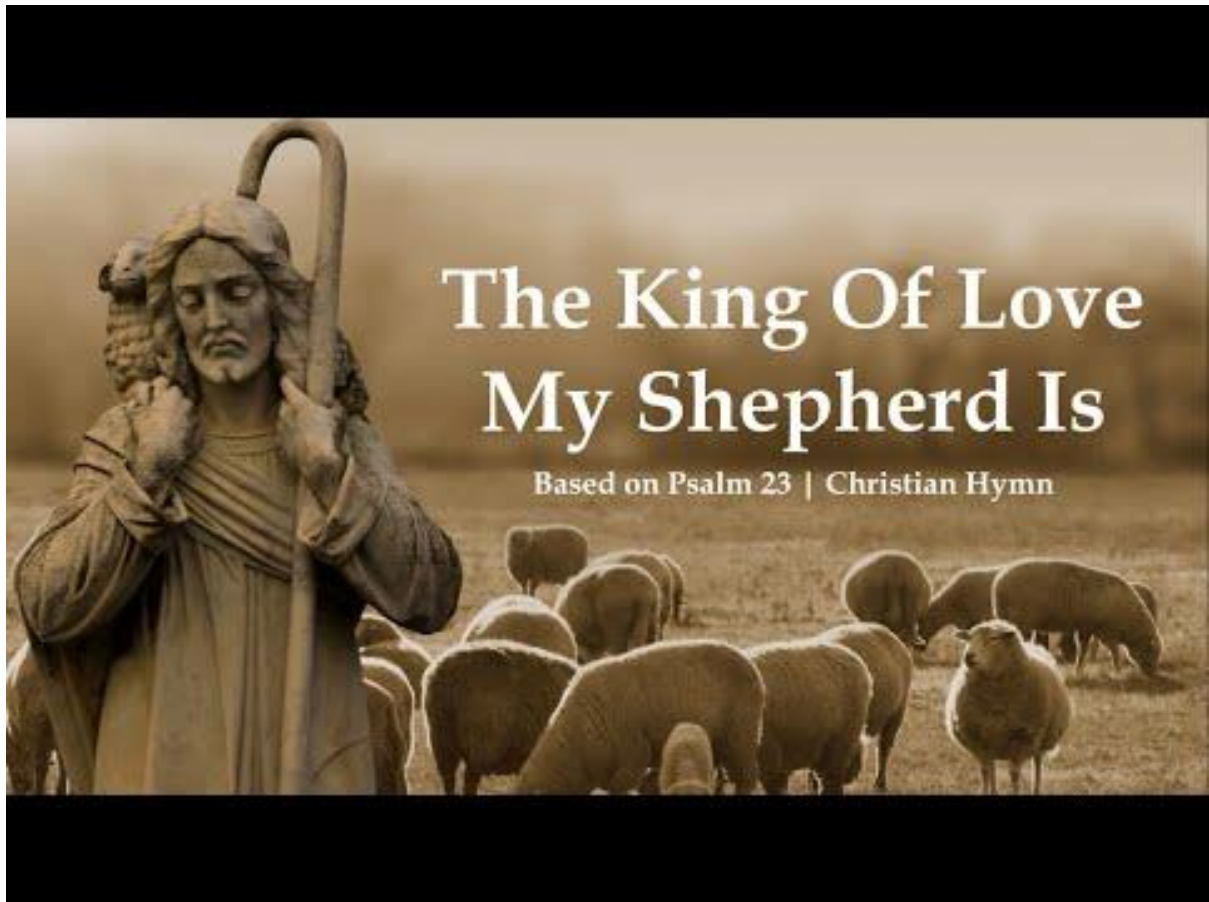
*for the Word of God within us,
thanks be to God.*

Prayer with the children

Sermon

- **WE RESPOND TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION**

Hymn TIS 145 The King of Love my shepherd



Offering Prayer

Good Shepherd, we bring these gifts, as we bring ourselves, to be blessed and used for the good of all. Open our eyes to see places and spaces of need, and open our hearts to participate in reaching out in love, for renewal and restoration

Notices and Sharing

Prayers of the People/ The Lord's Prayer

Friends of the Fig Tree, PO Box 126 Wonthaggi VIC 3995

*Risen One, who shepherds and guides,
hear us as we pray.*

*We open our hearts before you now,
lifting the needs of the world
and the communities around us.*

*We bring to mind places across the world
where conflict is rife
and natural disasters are prevalent.*

(pause)

*Good Shepherd who guides us,
may your peace be known in these regions.
We bring to mind those whose lives
are affected by the weight of war, displacement and
the ongoing effects of creation's groaning.*

(pause)

*Good Shepherd who guides us,
may your comfort come to them.
We bring to mind those in leadership
and positions of power.*

(pause)

*Good Shepherd who guides us,
may your wisdom and ways of love
be evident in their decision making.
We bring to mind all who speak your name,
proclaiming your love throughout the world.*

(pause)

*Good Shepherd who guides us,
may their voices be heard and your love ignited.
We bring to mind all who are precious to us.*

(pause)

*Good Shepherd who guides us,
may they know your love as we know your love.*

*In the name of the Risen Christ,
we pray together then as he taught us*

:

***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.***

Sharing Children's activity

ANZAC DAY

We are mindful that Thursday is Anzac Day, a day to remember the men and women who went to war. a day to remember the ANZACs and their sacrifice at Gallipoli in WW1. A day to remember those who never returned, who lie buried in a foreign field. A day to remember those who returned and lived with memories they could never speak of. A day to remember their courage and sacrifice.

Music reflection “lest we forget”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SyEZkqWKm_8&ab_channel=ABCAustralia

▪ THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD


Words of Mission and Blessing

As you leave this place remember those who you have never met, but sacrificed everything for your freedom. Whoever you meet, wherever you travel, speak words of God’s love and peace.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn ‘May the grace of Jesus Christ’



AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE SPIRIT
BE WITH US