



ALKING POINT

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

SUNDAY 3rd May 2020

Volume 26 Issue 14



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
The plunging temperatures in the last few days have been a clear reminder that we are well into autumn and winter is not far away. Now is the time when those of us who have gardens have plenty of tasks that should be done before the cold really sets in. For example, the spent summer vegetable plants need removing and the winter crops should be planted; the perennials need pruning back, and the shrubs and trees need tidying up. But if we are wise, we will also take time to admire the particular beauties of this season – the glowing reds, oranges and yellows of autumn leaves, the colourful Chrysanthemums and Nerines, the tiny crocuses and dainty cyclamens, and fresh dampness of dewy mornings with spider webs and plants shining when the sun hits the water drops. There is nourishment for the soul in recognising and enjoying the beauty of creation, including in our own gardens and pot plants. There is joy in nurturing and growing plants, and in watching the birds and insects interact with the plants. In this time of isolation, when we may be deprived of a lot of human interaction, we can still find much to appreciate and enjoy.

Blessings, Sandra

What is happening with Ministry in Traralgon District?

Rev Sandra Houghton has agreed to continue with Supply Ministry at Traralgon District, until at least the end of June. We thank her for her ongoing care and support of our Congregation at this time of uncertainty.

If you are unsure whether your contact details and email address are correct, please contact the Church Office. We want to get the worship resources out to as many members of our congregations as possible.

NEW OFFICE HOURS (until further notice): Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



Traralgon District Uniting Church
Incorporating: Traralgon, Glengarry & Rosedale.



**Traralgon, Glengarry, and Rosedale Uniting churches
Worship at Home**

SUNDAY 3RD MAY 2020

EASTER 4 A

Shepherds and shepherding are strong themes in our readings for this week. In Jesus' day, sheep and shepherds were everywhere and everyone saw shepherds in action. So, using the analogy of a shepherd and his sheep to talk about the relationship between God and God's people made good sense. This analogy was also used to talk about good and bad leadership- the kings of Israel were sometimes talked about as being good or bad shepherds.

Pause for a moment to think about what a good shepherd looked like – conscientious, caring, protective of his or her flock, and willing to face dangers on their behalf. Conversely, bad shepherd were indifferent and uncaring to the needs of their flock, maybe even cruel. They were very likely to abandon them in times of danger.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Come into this place as you are:

come as friend or stranger; come as seeker or teacher;

come as old or young; come as lost or found; come as you are.

You are the person God loves, and gives life as the Good Shepherd does:

healing, holding, loving, feeding, tending, nurturing God.

Come as you are to worship, and be folded into God's green pastures.

HYMN: TIS 145; [The king of love my shepherd is](#)

OPENING PRAYER:

Waiting God, welcome us home.

Nurturing God, call our names.

Nourishing God, set a table before us.

Tending God, lead us in your way.

Companion God, go ahead of us.

Liberating God, protect us.

Welcoming God, save us. Amen.



PSALM: Psalm 23 *paraphrased by B D Prewer 2001*

You, God, are my best Friend, I shall never be helpless.

You make me rest in green places,

you lead me beside tranquil pools.

You revive my spirits, leading me along good paths where your name is honoured.

Even when I must walk through darkness and grief,

I will not be afraid.

For you are with me; your grace and truth comfort me.

You have set a table for me in the presence of my doubts and fears.

You massage my tense head and neck, my cup is full and running over.

Certainly goodness and mercy shall follow me every day of my life,

and I shall live abundantly in your home when calendars and clocks are no more.

SONG: [In the shepherd's arm by T. Ehlinger](#)

GOSPEL READING: John 10:1-10

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

REFLECTIVE SONG: [Gentle Shepherd - Amy Grant](#)

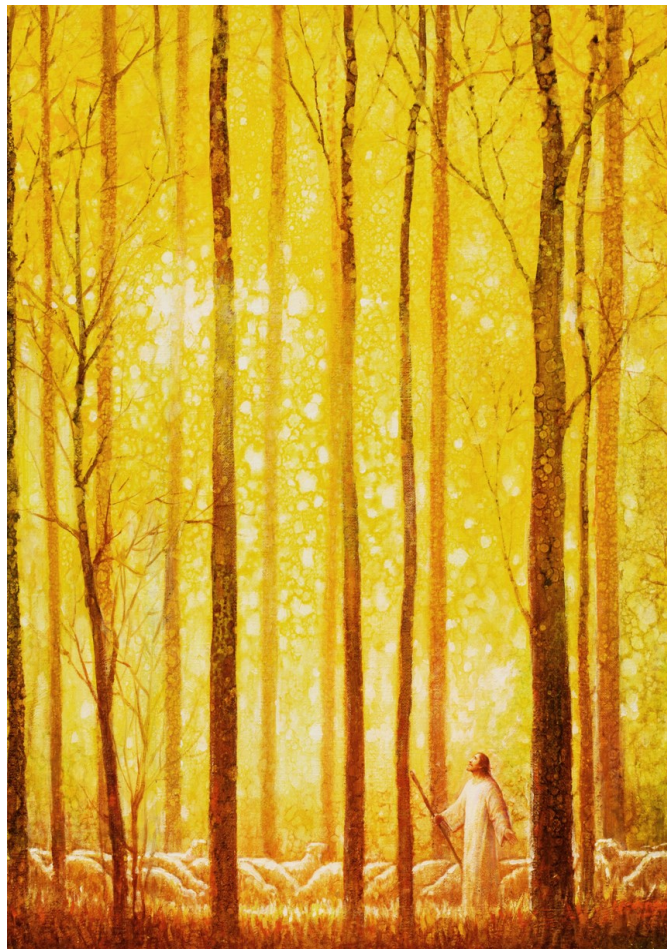
Gentle Shepherd, show us the way
Keep us safe, on the journey
Give us shelter, when the day is done
Lead us out, out of the darkness
Open our eyes, when the morning comes
Show us the sun

Gentle Shepherd, show us the way
Grant us mercy, hope for tomorrow, and
Strength for a day gentle Shepherd
Show us your grace

When we fall, lift us up Lord
When we wander, bring us home again
Give us love, for one another
Show us your power, help us understand
Merciful friend

Gentle Shepherd, show us the way
Grant us mercy, hope for tomorrow, and
Strength for a day, gentle Shepherd,
Show us your grace, show us your face
Blessed Jesus, show us your face

Songwriters: E. BROWN BANNISTER,
MARC BYRD, STEVE J. HINDALONG
© Universal Music Publishing Group,
CAPITOL CHRISTIAN MUSIC GROUP, MUSIC SERVICES



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Seek God in the peace of this moment,
and bring to God what you carry, and all that burdens you.

Seek God and give to God those times you have been left behind,
felt forgotten, ignored, out of touch with others, that you be made whole again.
Shepherding God, we have gone astray. Find us again.

Seek God and give to God those you have left behind,
forgotten, ignored, passed over, that they may be made whole again.
Shepherding God, we have gone astray. Find us again.

Seek God and give to God the hurts, the prejudices,
the acts that keep us from community, that we may be made whole again.
Shepherding God, we have gone astray. Find us again.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Good Shepherd hears your cry, and comes to you, calls your name, and brings you home.
You have been found. You are forgiven.
You are refreshed in running waters.

Read the [HOMILY](#) here.

SONG: [Heroes- Casting Crowns](#)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *from Psalm 23*

Gracious God, you care for me; I need nothing more.

*Hear the cry of those who are hungry;
hungry for justice, and dignity, hungry for freedom, and love.*

You lead me into a haven of peace and rest.

*Hear the cry of those who are alone;
those who grieve a relationship broken by death or human failing,
those who live in the isolation of a hospital or nursing home room, a prison cell,
a frail body, a confused mind.*

You breathe new life into me and lead me in new ways.

*God whose breath is life itself,
we pray for a just and caring use of your creation;
a fair sharing of its abundance, an ethical searching of its mysteries.*

**You are with me, and comfort me,
even when the darkness of the world looms large.**

*We pray for those who seek the truth;
those who cannot speak, and those who cannot be heard,
that the light of your Word
may shine in the darkness which overshadows their lives*

**In the face of those who trouble me
you provide for me, and pour out your blessings.**

*Hear the cry of those trampled by racial or religious intolerance,
disoriented by homelessness, defeated by unemployment;*

**God of justice and compassion you are with me always
and have promised to sustain me all my life.**

*Enlarge our vision of life, and make us bold in our hope,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, let our cry come to you;*

. . . and with the saints in every age we pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

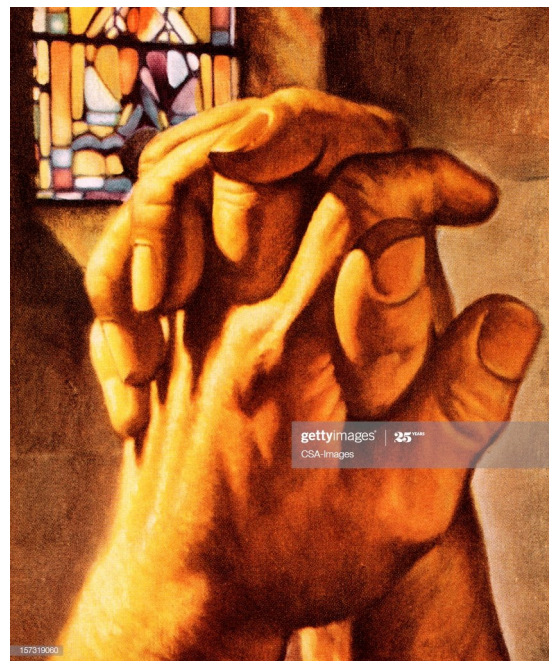
**Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we
forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

HYMN: TIS 569; [Guide me, O thou great redeemer](#)

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

Into the world, we will go with God by our side.
Into all of life, we will go with God on our way.
Into every future, we will go with God in every journey.
For God is waiting there for us, and we will meet God there.

*Call to Worship, Opening Prayer and Prayer of Confession from Seasons of the Spirit Prayers of the People by
Jeff Shrowder, Hymns copied under CCLI Licence no 206729*



Uniting Church in Australia - Traralgon District

19-29 Park Lane (PO Box 1136) TRARALGON 3844 ph: 5176 1029

Administrative Assistant: Theresa Steyn **Office Hours:** Wednesday and Thursday 9am-1pm

Email Address: mail@traralgon.unitingchurch.org.au **Web Address:** <http://traralgonuc.blogspot.com/>