



**PAYNEHAM ROAD
UNITING CHURCH
3 May 2020**



EASTER 4

Readings for today—Psalm 23

The first line of Psalm 23 starts: "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want" (NRSV) or "I lack nothing" (*Tanakh, JPS*). How should we understand "I shall not want"? We live in a society in which our material wants are encouraged, and even manipulated. We are encouraged to consume more and more. Think about this: what do you want? What are you being encouraged to want? The cost of saying "I want" is often hidden and large. This is not only in our country, but also in those places around the world where Western materialism is sustained by people who earn little, and must often work in unsafe conditions, living in poverty to provide Western economies with the things that they want—very cheaply. Psalm 23 begins with the concept that the sheep will not want because the Shepherd will have provided for them with grass, water, and security. For those of us with faith, continuing to want when we have been provided enough somehow seems at odds with the message: "I shall not want". How, then should we read those well-loved words? Can we consider the consequences that our wanting brings for others?

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BIBLE READINGS for May 10 2020 Easter 5

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

The liturgical colour for Easter is WHITE

White symbolizes purity, holiness, and virtue, as well as respect and reverence. White is used for all high Holy Days and festival days of the Church Year, especially the seasons of Christmas and Easter, as well as for baptism, marriage, dedications, and in some traditions for the ordination of ministers. In some church traditions it is also used for funerals as a symbol of the resurrection.

Worship Service via Zoom live

Payneham Road Uniting Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: PRUC Sunday Worship (EASTER 4) 3 May 2020

Time: 9:30 am Adelaide (service starts 10 am)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6143072024>

Meeting ID: **614 307 2024** (No password required)



If you need help with this please contact Do Young before Sunday.

PRAYERS DURING COVID-19

We are invited to pray at 7 pm every night in response to Covid-19. We may only pray for a minute, or for 19 minutes or more, but either way, the message is simple: to seek God for his healing, strength and peace across our nation. We are also called to pray at 1pm for 1 minute for health workers every day. Our health workers are doing an incredible job at looking after those with the virus (and other conditions) and we pray for protection and safety over them as they tend to those who are sick. You can organise a virtual prayer meeting with those around you or pray over the phone with a family member, work colleague or friend.

PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH



Please keep in contact with other congregational members. Try to phone, email or use social media with at least 2 people a week if possible. Refer to your Pastoral Care list or congregational directory.

Do Young would be happy to video your personal message to put on the church website. He will come to your home and video outside from 2 metres away. Please contact him if you would like to do this. This is a special opportunity to share with the community.

Thank you to Sue Yoo and Huy Nguyen for delivering the newsletter and order of service this week. If you have some time to help next week please let Do Young know.

SA COVID-19 MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT LINE

Uniting Communities is operating the South Australian COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line, established by the State Government to help those struggling with the current situation or with feelings of isolation. Counselling is offered over the phone and via video calls, along with referrals to a range of services if needed. The Support Line is open seven days a week from 8:00am to 8:00pm on 1800 632 753.

John Piper's Prayers

Father,

At our best moments, by your grace, we are not sleeping in Gethsemane. We are awake and listening to your Son's prayer. He knows, deep down, that he must suffer. But in his perfect humanity, he cries out, "If it is possible, let this cup pass."

In the same way, we sense, deep down, that this pandemic is appointed, in your wisdom, for good and necessary purposes. We too must suffer. Your Son was innocent. We are not.

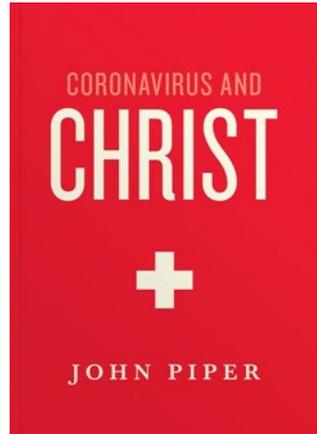
Yet with him in our less-than-perfect humanity, we too cry out, "If it is possible, let this cup pass." Do quickly, O Lord, the painful, just, and merciful work you have resolved to do. Do not linger in judgment. Do not delay your compassion.

Remember the poor, O Lord, according to your mercy. Do not forget the cry of the afflicted. Grant recovery. Grant a cure. Deliver us—your poor, helpless creatures—from these sorrows, we pray.

But do not waste our misery and grief, O Lord. Purify your people from powerless preoccupation with barren materialism and Christless entertainment. Put our mouths out of taste with the bait of Satan. Cut from us the roots and remnant of pride and hate and unjust ways. Grant us capacities of outrage at our own belittling of your glory. Open the eyes of our hearts to see and savor the beauty of Christ. Incline our hearts to your word, your Son, and your way. Fill us with compassionate courage. And make a name for yourself in the way your people serve.

Stretch forth your hand in great awakening for the sake of this perishing world. Let the terrible words of Revelation not be spoken over this generation: "Yet still they did not repent." As you have stricken bodies, strike now the slumbering souls. Forbid that they would remain asleep in the darkness of pride and unbelief. In your great mercy, say to these bones, "Live!" And bring the hearts and lives of millions into alignment with the infinite worth of Jesus. In Jesus's name, amen.

(Piper, J. (2020). Coronavirus and Christ. Wheaton, IL: Crossway.)



Children's Page

Dear Parents,

Today is the third Sunday in the season of Easter. Psalm23, John10:1-10

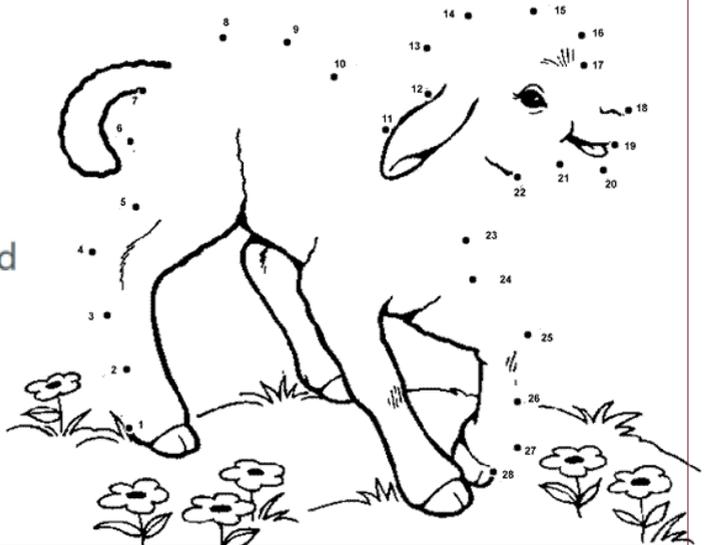
In John's gospel today, we learn that the sheep know the shepherd's voice and will follow only their shepherd. We know the voices we can trust, too. Have one child volunteer to be blindfolded. Have that child's mother or father and two other mothers or fathers volunteer to be part of your "shepherd's voice" experiment (Note: you may need to arrange for volunteers first) . Blindfold the child. Ask the three volunteer mothers or fathers to each call the child's name in turn. Make sure the child's parent is the last voice. The child should be able to pick out his or her parent's voice clearly.



Point out that just like the child knew his or her parent's voice, so Jesus' followers know his voice and follow him. But wait! How can we hear Jesus' voice today? Let the children guess and give answers. Lead them to understand that we hear Jesus' voice in many ways—in scripture, in prayer, and in the voices of their parents teaching them the Creed, Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer, and other ways. Remind the children to listen for Jesus always and follow his way. Finish with a simple prayer for ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts to love.

Source from ; <https://sermons4kids.com/>

The Shepherd
Dot to Dot



Our Church and Church Family

PLEASE PRAY FOR

..... our members & friends struggling with ill health, especially remember in your prayers,; Betty Nunan, Marj Green, Andrew Randall, Ray Williams, Judy Murdoch, Doug Faulkner, Bill & Grace Hancock, Bob & Beth Rankine, Roger Wyatt, Jackie & Ray Gabell, Dennis Henschke, Brenton Taylor, Ross Dawson and Val & Cate Watkinson.



Also our international students.



Felicia Ruth (5th), Cynthia Fleming (19th), Bill Hancock (23rd), Dana Lim (26th)

Zoom Services

Please encourage others to watch our Zoom service. We have approximately 45 people between Payneham Road UC and Prospect Road UC enjoying our services each week and there's plenty room for more. Please send favourite hymn requests to Do Young.

Have you phoned John Bested and offered your help with the church garden yet?

You can still practice social distancing.

Even if you could help for an hour putting the cuttings into the bins, sweeping up, pruning, watering. You can contact John on 0408897918 or email: john@johnbested.com.au.

Please help John, after all, it's your church too!



Wanted

The newsletter is a good communicating tool. I would encourage all of you to write a journal, prayer, story and anything you want to share please contact Do Young or Sharon.

Church Council met online using Zoom on Tuesday.



Please see the Council report on the opposite page.

URGENT HELP REQUIRED

We have three international nursing students in our congregation who would benefit from some financial support from us. They stay in Australia and study by working in part time jobs. As you know many businesses are either closed or reducing their staff numbers – and these students have lost their jobs and there is considerable uncertainty about when they may again be able to access employment. They do not qualify for Jobseeker allowances nor any other financial support and are experiencing stress in meeting financial needs. Two other international young people have full time jobs and are Okay. Do Young is keeping in regular contact with them all to provide support.

At the last Council meeting it was proposed and accepted that we ask you - our congregational members - for donations towards providing some financial support to assist these three students in the short term. All would like to complete their nursing studies and then remain in Australia. These are important members of our church family and are likely to contribute to the future of our church.

CAN YOU HELP?

Donations can be sent to David Heilbronn and put into the Church bank account – please indicate “for students” when sending so we can clearly identify these amounts from other income. Ring David if you need guidance on how to get money to him.

Do Young, Heather and David will administer the donations and determine what amounts will be provided to each student – PLEASE CONSIDER THIS URGENTLY.

Heather Schubert – Chairperson PRUC Council

Account Name: **Payneham Road Uniting Church**

UC Invest BSB: **805 007**

Account: **00701703**

Message: **Students**

PRUC Council Report – meeting held 28th April 2020

Due to COVID-19 all church services were ceased as of mid March as a result of Government guidelines. On April 5th PRUC recommenced services conducted online via Zoom in conjunction with Prospect UC. The planned Council meeting on March 24th was cancelled and an April Council meeting was conducted via Zoom on Tuesday April 28th with most Council members logged in online. A brief summary of the key business discussed and decision made at the meeting is listed below -

- Planned Congregational meeting was cancelled – future date not yet confirmed.
- A number of emails re COVID-19 were received from UCA Assembly and Synod, and the Government outlining required changes for all churches - and for the community. All PRUC meetings, fund raising and services were cancelled.

Administration issues

- It was decided to continue employing Sharon for 7.5 hours on Thursdays to provide ongoing support with preparing and distributing an expanded Newsletter, to prepare Order of Service for Zoom church services and to support Do Young and Church Council.
- PRUC Congregational Directory and the Pastoral Care list were revised and distributed by Sharon to all members.
- Amir remains in his role as church/Hall cleaner – with additional tasks of cleaning and repairs to furniture and Hall floors and helping maintain church grounds.

Fund raising

- most Hall hirers have withdrawn due to Govt regulations and all other fund raising activities are on hold for the present.

Property

- Cottage – previous tenant left mid March and repairs to cottage were undertaken during March/April. Cottage has now been rented by Dr Wratten (tenant in Williamson Hall) for 5 years.
- Church and Hall grounds – pruning and garden maintenance in progress to ensure visible presence of activity around the church.

Finance

- there was minimal effect of COVID-19 on our finances until end of March – but future months will see a significant loss of income until Govt. restrictions are relaxed. The 2020 Budget has been revised several times and currently PRUC will be in deficit each month that the current regulations are in place. We have enough money in the bank to cover for 2020 so there is no drama re our finances at present – partly due to unexpected income and less expenses from Synod and Presbytery to support churches at this time.

Rev Do Young – has deferred planned leave and surgery in May/June.

Please remember Tangi, her family, friends and colleagues at this time.

A PRAYER FOR THE PACIFIC FROM PRESIDENT DR DEIDRE PALMER

Gracious and Loving God,

We give thanks for the action of the Holy Spirit, who weaves us together as a global communion of churches.

We give thanks for our sisters and brothers in Christ in the Pacific, with whom we share in God's mission of reconciliation and renewal of our earth.

We pray for the people of Pacific nations, who are facing the devastating effects of Tropical Cyclone Harold.

We pray for the island nations of Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga.

We pray for those who have lost loved ones, who are homeless, or those who have limited access to food or water.

We pray for comfort for those who are grieving and strength and wisdom to all those involved in emergency relief and recovery efforts.

We pray for the leaders of government, health workers and our Church partners, as they respond to the global pandemic COVID-19 and guide their people and nations through this crisis.

We pray for the liquid continent, that is the Pacific – islands connected and sustained by ocean currents.

We pray for courage and determination, as Pacific leaders continue to address the impacts of climate change, and advocate for policies and actions, that bring healing, renewal and flourishing to the whole Creation.

We pray in solidarity and hope, through the Risen, Crucified Christ. Amen.

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