



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
TOORAK
EST. 1859



Fourth Sunday of Easter

21 April, 2024

10am

Welcome

On behalf of everyone at St. John's, Toorak, a very warm welcome to this church and faith community. St. John's welcomes everyone to all services and events, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race or background. This is a wonderful and historic church, founded in 1859. We are part of the Anglican Church of Australia and a member of the global Anglican Communion, comprised of 80 million people.

Worship

Regular services of worship are held each Sunday at 8am and 10am, and Wednesday at 7pm. All are welcome. Services are followed by times of fellowship over food and drinks to which everyone is also welcome.

Mission

This church actively follows Jesus' command to love God, love one's neighbour and to care for all people. Our clergy and parishioners regularly visit the sick, home-bound, and the dying. We care for the poor and needy through service and charitable giving, through our Opportunity Shop run in partnership with the local Catholic and Uniting churches, and by supporting the work of Anglicare, The Brotherhood of St. Laurence and The Anglican Board of Mission. Our clergy regularly baptise new members of the church, preside at weddings and care for the grieving through our funeral ministry.

Visitors

If you're visiting for the first time please introduce yourself to a welcomer or member of the clergy, and fill out the blue 'Welcome' card found at the end of every pew so we can stay in touch with you.

The Church

The church is decorated in white symbolising purity, grace, and, ultimately, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is the joyful culmination of the Easter season.

Cover Image

The Good Shepherd, William Dyce (1806-1864)
Oil on paper, mounted on canvas, c1856
Manchester Art Gallery, London, England

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge we meet on the Traditional Lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples of the East Kulin Nations and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.



@stjohnstoorak



Like us on
Facebook

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Please stand as the procession enters the church

PRELUDE Hymn Tune Prelude on St Peter
Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

THE INVOCATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

GREETING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

HYMN 'Christ is made the sure foundation'

Gr. Capo 1 Ab(G) Bbm(Am) Eb(D) Ab(G) Fm(Em)

Bb7(A7) Eb(D) Eb7(D7) Ab(G)

Bbm(Am) Db(C) C7(B7) Fm(Em) F(E) Bb(A)

Eb(D) Ab(G) Bbm(Am) Eb(D) Eb7(D7) Ab(G)

1. Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen by the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.
2. All that dedicated city,
dearly loved by God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody,
God the Three in One adoring,
praising him eternally.
3. Here among us, where we call you
come, O Lord our God today;
with your gentle loving-kindness
hear your people as we pray,
and your fullest benediction
pour upon us here today.
4. Here bestow on all your people
what we ask of you to gain,
what we gain from you for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.

5. Praise and honour to the Father,
praise and honour to the Son,
praise and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
one in might and one in glory
while eternal ages run.

From *Urbs beata Hierusalem*, Latin, c. 7th cent. *tr.*
John Mason Neale 1818–66 *alt.*
(TIS 432)

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, 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 TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord your God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ Jesus said: ‘This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

CONFESSION

Christ our Passover Lamb has been offered for us, therefore we come to celebrate the festival. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and a true heart.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *sung*

Gloria



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, hea - ven - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the
Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on
us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,
Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

From Parish Eucharist - Michael Dudman (1938-1994)

COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus, good shepherd of the sheep, by whom the lost are sought and guided into the fold: feed us and we shall be satisfied, heal us and we shall be whole, and lead us that we may be with you, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING Acts 4.5-12 *read by Jenny Smith*

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.’

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM Psalm 23 *sung by the choir*

The Lord is my shepherd:

therefore can I lack nothing.

He will make me lie down in green pastures:

and lead me beside still waters.

He will refresh my soul:

and guide me in right pathways for his name’s sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil:

for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.

You spread a table before me

in the face of those who trouble me:

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup shall be full.

Surely your goodness and loving-kindness

will follow me all the days of my life:

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE SECOND READING 1 John 3.16-24 *read by John Horan*

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.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE GRADUAL HYMN 'Lord Christ, at your first eucharist' *please stand and sing*

1. Lord Christ, at your first eucharist you prayed
that all your church might be for ever one;
may at each eucharist this prayer be made
with longing heart and soul, 'Your will be done.'
O may we all one bread, one body be,
through this blest sacrament of unity.
2. For all your church, O Lord, we intercede;
make all our sad divisions soon to cease;
draw us the nearer each to each, we plead,
by drawing all to you, O Prince of Peace:
thus may we all one bread, one body be,
through this blest sacrament of unity.
3. We also pray for wanderers from your fold;
O bring them back, Good Shepherd of the sheep,
back to the faith which saints believed of old,
back to your church which still one faith must keep:
soon may we all one bread, one body be,
through this blest sacrament of unity.

4. So, Lord, at length when sacraments shall cease
may we be one with all your church above,
one with your saints in one unbroken peace,
one with your saints in one unbounded love;
more blessed still, in peace and love to be
one with the Trinity in Unity.

William Henry Turton 1856–1938 *alt.* (TiS 521)

Please remain standing for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

CANTOR: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

(All) **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

CANTOR: This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

(All) **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

THE GOSPEL John 10.11-18

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. John.
Glory 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.’

For the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Vicar, The Revd Dr Peter French

ANTHEM The Lord is my shepherd
Howard Goodall (b. 1958)

THE NICENE CREED *said together, standing*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *led by John Horan*

The Prayers end with the following

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers. Grant that what we have asked in faith, we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PARISH NOTICES

THE GREETING OF PEACE *standing*

Christ is risen. Alleluia! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!
The peace of the risen Lord be always with you. And also with you.

All share with each other a 'COVIDsafe' sign of peace

OFFERTORY

As the gifts of bread and wine are brought forward, a monetary collection for the life of St. John's is taken. Please give by contributing to the collection plate, at the paypoint at the rear of the church or by scanning the QR code.



OFFERTORY HYMN 'I will sing the wondrous story'

Chords: Dm Bb C F C F Bb C F Dm Bb C F

Refrain Am Dm Gm C7 F

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story of the
Dm Gm Csus C F C7 F

Christ who died for me, sing it with his saints in
C7 F Bb C7 F

glo - ry, ga - thered by the crys - tal sea.

1. I will sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
how he left the realms of glory
for the cross on Calvary.

*Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
sing it with his saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.*

2. I was lost: but Jesus found me,
found the sheep that went astray,
raised me up and gently led me
back into the narrow way.

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous...

3. Faint was I, and fears possessed
me,
bruised was I from many a fall,
hope was gone, and shame
distressed me:
but his love has pardoned all.

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous...

4. Days of darkness still may meet
me,
sorrow's paths I oft may tread;
but his presence still is with me,
by his guiding hand I'm led.

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous...

5. He will keep me till the river
rolls its waters at my feet:
then he'll bear me safely over,
where the loved ones I shall meet.

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous...

Francis Harold Rowley 1854-1952

(TiS 233)

PRAYER FOR RECEIVING THE OFFERTORY

Lord of life, with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise. As we are fed with the bread of heaven may we know your resurrection power; through Christ our risen Lord. **Blessed be God for ever.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

All remain standing

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 Great Thanksgiving Prayer continues to the following

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

Sanctus 2

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Benedictus

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - - est.

From Parish Eucharist - Michael Dudman (1938-1994)

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer continues to the following

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith

Acclamation

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer ends with the following

... songs of never ending praise.

Acclamation

Bless - ing and hon - our and glo - ry and power are yours for
ev - er and ev - er. A men.

From Parish Eucharist - Michael Dudman (1938-1994)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

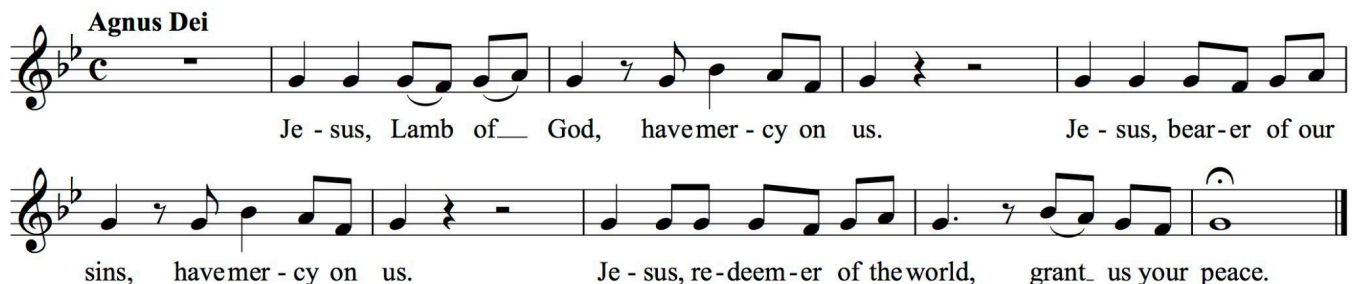
As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily
bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the
kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. We who are many
are one body, **for we all share in the one bread.**

AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, bear - er of our
sins, have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world, grant us your peace.

From Parish Eucharist - Michael Dudman (1938-1994)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *kneeling or standing*

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I
shall be healed.**

ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptised Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Communion is available as consecrated bread, which is given to each person, and wine which may be drunk from the chalice. A separate chalice for intinction (dipped) is also provided. If you would prefer a blessing, please come forward and indicate this by keeping your arms behind your back. Gluten free wafers are available on request.

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM These are they that follow the lamb
John Goss (1800-1880)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *Please stand.*

The prayer ends with the following

**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.**

FINAL HYMN 'Great is your faithfulness'

1. Great is your faithfulness,
O God my Father,
in you no shadow of turning we
see;
you never fail and your love is
unchanging:
as you have been you for ever will
be.

*Great is your faithfulness,
great is your faithfulness,
morning by morning new
mercies we see;
all we have needed your hand has
provided:
great is your faithfulness, Lord
God, to me.*

2. Summer and winter, and
springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their
courses above,
join with all nature in unspoken
witness
to your great faithfulness, mercy
and love.

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that's
enduring,
your living presence to cheer and
to guide,
strength for today and bright hope
for tomorrow —
these are the blessings your love
will provide.

Thomas Obadiah Chisholm 1866–1960 *alt.* based
on Lamentations 3:22, 23 (TiS 154)

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE Prelude and Fugue in D minor, BWV 554
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

As the postlude is played please remain seated or leave quietly



Order of Service from *A Prayer Book for Australia 1995*. Broughton Books by E.J.Dwyer (Australia) Pty Ltd, Unit 13, Perry Park, 33 Maddox Street, Alexandria, NSW 2015. © 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. With the Liturgical Psalter, Inclusive Language Version English text © 1995 by David L Frost, John A. Emerton, Andrew A Macintosh. Hymns from *Together in Song Australian Hymn Book II*. © The Australian Hymn Book Pty Ltd 2006. Registered Office 14 Martin Place (Level 17) Sydney 2000. Used with permission. C.C.L.I Licence number 669476. All readings from scripture are taken from The Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Support St John's, Toorak

Your support of St John's is greatly appreciated!

Donations can be made directly to:

St. John's Anglican Church General Account, Westpac

Account Name: St John's Anglican Church | BSB: 033 086 | Account: 871931.

International transfers please include SWIFT code WPACAU2S.



CURRENT NOTICES

Tuesday 25 April, ANZAC Day

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on this day.

Patronal Festival & Visit from Bishop Kate Prowd, Sunday 5 May, 10am only

On Sunday May 5, we will celebrate our patron St. John the Evangelist with a visit from Bishop Kate Prowd. For this occasion, we will **NOT** be holding an 8am service, but will instead share in one joint service at 10am, followed by a scrumptious Morning Tea in Buxton Hall.

The Melbourne Anglican

In 2024 there will be 4 print & online editions and 7 online only editions. The March edition is currently available in the Narthex. The next print edition will be available on: **Sunday, 2 June**.

Roster Availability for May & June 2024

Please take some time to complete the roster availability form in your Pewsheets, in the Narthex, or online [here](#).

REGULAR NOTICES

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

St. John's is committed to safeguarding all people and protecting their wellbeing, including young and vulnerable people, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and children with diverse needs. All relevant staff and volunteers are trained in child safety and have appropriate clearance for service or clearance for ministry. If you have any concerns about the wellbeing of children in this parish, contact Kooyoora on 1800 135 246 or www.kooyoora.org.au If you have concerns about your wellbeing or that of another churchgoer please contact the clergy.

Pastoral Care

Clergy and members of the St John's Pastoral Care Team offer pastoral care on a regular basis to parishioners as well as to those who specifically request it. This may include Home Communion. They also visit local hospitals at the request of patients, family, friends or staff with the consent of the recipient. Clergy and Lay Pastoral Carers visit a number of local Aged Care facilities on a regular, usually monthly, basis. Parishioners and others are welcome to phone the church office to arrange a home visit by the clergy or a lay pastoral carer. Those who are no longer able to attend usual services at the church are visited on a regular basis at time intervals that suit them.

The Melbourne Anglican (TMA) and Prayer Diary

The latest edition of TMA is [here](#). The link to the April Prayer Diary is [here](#).

Contribute to Worship Services

All our ministries at St John's are supported by our wonderful volunteers. The rosters for January and February are available [here](#). And you will note that volunteering for morning tea has now been added to the list of duties. If you can help fill any of the gaps please contact the parish office. Thanks in advance.

Communion Instructions

All are welcome at the altar and those baptised are welcome to receive Communion. Holy Communion is distributed via a chalice from which to sip or, a separate chalice into which the bread may be intincted (dipped). If you wish to simply receive the bread only that is perfectly appropriate. Gluten free wafers are available on request. A blessing only is also available.

Zoom Link

Our 10am Sunday service is streamed here:

us02web.zoom.us/j/87520014330?pwd=VENadGFaSzAzSmcrSEZuK1kVzFDQT09

Meeting ID: 875 2001 4330 Passcode: 670339

Prayer Requests

Prayer requests can be sent to prayers@saintjohnstoorak.org. The clergy check emails for prayer requests daily, and pray in solidarity with anyone who would like prayers said for them.

Clergy Days Off

Our clergy have one regular day off per week. Our Assistant Curate Lydia has Monday and Vicar Peter has Friday. Wendy usually works Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday only. Please respect their time away from work and unless in an emergency, please refrain from telephoning, texting, visiting the Vicarage, or emailing them on these days. Thank you.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Prayers for Victims of War

Give comfort, O Lord, to all who are torn away from their homes and their loved ones, by war, by famine, or by cruelty; give the world your peace and turn the hearts of those who will to war; grant that we who dwell secure in this insecure world may be generous in caring for our displaced brothers and sisters, of all faiths and none. We ask this in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: St Luke's Melbourne South (Jonathan Cox, Michele Moorhouse); The Diocese of Perth (Abp Kay Goldsworthy, David Bassett, Hans Christiansen, Kate Wilmont, Clergy & People); Mothers' Union Australia, Diocese of Melbourne (Elaine Longford, President); The Langwarrin-Pearcedale Anglican Church – pastoral service (Bp Paul Barker); St John's Sorrento – pastoral service (Bp Paul Barker); St Dunstan's Camberwell – pastoral service (Abp Philip Freier); St Andrew's Aberfeldie – pastoral service (Abp Philip Freier); St George's Malvern – pastoral service (Bp Genieve Blackwell); All Saints' Greensborough – pastoral service (Bp Brad Billings);

For those who lead us in Government: His Majesty King Charles III; Governor General David Hurley AC; Prime Minister Anthony Albanese; Federal Member of Parliament for Division of Higgins, Dr. Michelle Ananda-Rajah; and Premier of Victoria, Jacinta Allan.

For Reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians: For Aboriginal Anglican clergy and lay-leaders around Australia, their spiritual health and physical well-being, and the people they care for. For Aboriginal and Government leaders and their work together.

For The Toorak Ecumenical Movement: Our partner churches, St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Toorak Uniting Church, and The Swedish Church.

For The Anglican Board of Mission, The Brotherhood of St. Laurence, and Anglicare.

For schools in our parish: Geelong Grammar School Toorak Campus, Head of Campus Nicole Ginnane; St Catherine's School, Interim Principal Robert Marshall; and Toorak Primary School, Principal Julie Manallack.

For the sick and all in need: Gwen, Rex, Bruce, Sam, Margaret, Nichole, Joanna, Ivan, Anthea, David, John, Tim, Joan, James, Karen, Trisha, Emma & Thomas.

For those in aged care and those who are housebound:
Rosie; Beverley; Val; Rosalind; Elizabeth & Sue.

For those who have died and their families who mourn them:
Garry van Egmond & John Rowe

Give thanks for those whose Anniversary of Death is this week:
Angus Armstrong (2016); Judith Hartley (2019); Ronald Lee (2021); Jan Quail (2017); Judith Williams (2015); Maxwell Cooke (2021); Peter Vickery QC (2022); John Walton (2023); Barbara Granger (2026).

ANZAC's Guy William Quarterman (25 April 1915) & Edward Robert Ernest Greenwood (26 April 1915), who were members of this church and who died at Gallipoli.



SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

Acts 4:5-12

In last Sunday's reading, we heard that when Peter and John went to the Temple to pray, Peter healed a crippled man, who then walked and leapt and praised God (3:8), and entered the Temple with them. Peter then exhorted the crowd to repent of their waywardness and "turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord ..." (3:19-20). "While Peter and John were speaking ..." (4:1), the religious authorities "much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead" (v. 2), arrest them.

Now v. 5: the Sanhedrin assembles next day. (The "elders" acted as religious and municipal judges; the "scribes", mostly Sadducees - who did not believe in an afterlife - were experts in Mosaic law and its interpretation.) "Annas" (v. 6) had been high priest, and now is the power behind the throne; five of his sons became high priest; "Caiaphas", high priest 18-36 AD, was his son-in-law. "John" may be Jonathan, Caiaphas' successor. We do not know of "Alexander". John and Peter appear before the council (v. 7), and are asked to explain their actions: who empowered you to cure the lame beggar? Vv. 8-12 are Peter's answer. "Filled with the Holy Spirit" may recall Luke 12:11-12, where Jesus says: "When they bring you before the ... rulers ... do not worry about ... what you are to say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you ... what you ought to say". It is "by the name of Jesus" (v.10), empowered by him, that Peter has cured the man who was crippled. Invocation of Jesus' name has put to flight the forces of evil, including the evil spirits thought to cause illness. Peter quotes Psalm 118:22, a statement of the Risen One's triumph over his enemies: he is the "cornerstone" (v. 11) of the Church, God's agent. (In Luke 20:17, Jesus applies this verse to himself, against the "scribes and chief priests".) Then v. 12: salvation is only available through Christ. In vv. 13-20, the members of the Sanhedrin are "amazed... and recognized... them as companions of Jesus" (v. 13). They note only that "a notable sign has been done" (v. 16) through Peter and John, and the two are ordered "not to speak or teach ... in the name of Jesus" (v. 18). The two tell them forthrightly that they will continue to spread the good news (v. 20).

Psalm 23

In the ancient Near East, the king was seen as shepherd (vv. 1-4) and as host (vv. 5-6). God faithfully provides for, and constantly cares for, his sheep. He revives our very lives ("soul", v. 3), and guides us in godly ways ("right paths"). Even when beset by evil ("darkest valley", v. 4), we have nothing to fear. God's "rod" (a defence against wolves and lions) protects us; his "staff" (v. 4, for rescuing sheep from thickets) guides us. The feast (v. 5) is even more impressive, for it is in the presence of his foes. Kings were plenteously anointed with oil (a symbol of power and dedication to a holy purpose). The psalmist trusts that God's "goodness and mercy" (v. 6, steadfast love) will follow (or pursue) him (as do his enemies) throughout his life. He will continue to worship in the Temple ("dwell in the house of the Lord") as long as he lives.

1 John 3:16-24

V. 11 says “For this is the message ... that we should love one another.” Abel’s godly deeds (Genesis 4:8) stirred Cain’s hatred for him, even to murdering his brother, so don’t be surprised if the “world hates you” (v. 13). For a Christian to hate a fellow Christian is equivalent to murder. “We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another” (v. 14). Jesus is the great example of selfless love: far from taking life, he “laid down his life for us” (v. 16). How can the love that originates in God (“God’s love”, v. 17) be in a wealthy person who sees another in need yet “refuses to help”? We need to love actively, “in truth and action” (v. 18), not hypocritically (“in word or speech”). (Truth and faith are synonyms.) It is by “this” (v. 19) love that we will know that we are Christ-like (“from the truth”): our consciences (“hearts”) will be reassured whenever we are conscious of sinning (“our hearts condemn us”, v. 20), for God knows us better than we do ourselves. But, when we know that we are following God’s ways (v. 21), we can boldly present ourselves “before God”. As Jesus promised (John 14:12), “whatever we ask” (v. 22) in his name (recognizing his power and authority), he will grant, because we follow God’s ways. Jesus has commanded that we believe in his authority and love one another (2:23). Then v. 24: obedience to him guarantees our continued liaison with him. By this love and the presence of the Holy Spirit, given to us by God, we know that Christ “abides in us”.

John 10:11-18

Jesus continues to speak of himself as the good shepherd, an image familiar to his audience. True followers, he has said, recognize the good shepherd. “I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved ... and find pasture ... the thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have [spiritual] life, and have it abundantly” (vv. 9-10). Now he says that he is the “good” (v. 11, i.e. real, proper) “shepherd”, the one who dies for his “sheep”, his flock. But the “hired hand” (v. 12) does not care enough to save the sheep from the “wolf”. (Old Testament prophets spoke of leaders of Israel in these terms, so Jesus probably speaks of them here – shepherds who are not worthy of the name.) Jesus’ relationship to people is like the Father’s to him (v. 15). Who are the “other sheep” (v. 16)? We can only guess: perhaps they are non-Jews. They will have equal status with those who already follow Jesus, as part of one Church. Then v. 18: Jesus has been given the authority to choose to die and the power to rise again from the dead. He is in control of his own death and resurrection.



ART COMMENTARY

William Dyce was a Scottish painter, who played a part in the formation of public art education in the United Kingdom, and the South Kensington Schools system. Dyce was associated with the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, a group of English painters, poets, and art critics who were partly influenced by the Nazarenes (a group of radical German painters based in Rome). Like Dyce, they favoured religious subjects and painted with clear colours and bold lines.

In this painting, Dyce has modernised and westernised the idea of Christ as a shepherd. It is set in lowland Scotland, with contemporary farm buildings and a modern feeding trough in the background. For all its apparent realism, the landscape is full of symbolic contrasts between barrenness and new growth. Christ is amongst the sheep, walking with them through a narrow gate into a pasture that is bathed in bright light. The trees are barren, yet the promise of new life is there in the arms of the shepherd. The only lamb in the whole picture, this lamb the shepherd carries, represents new life. Here is the promise of life being brought to the flock. This shepherd is returning to the whole flock as king dressed in vibrant royal robes. But this king walks barefooted on this earth – his very foot-print in the soil of our experiences, and the grassy slopes of shadow and light. The King who gives everything for his people, the Shepherd who suffers Death for the Sheep.

MUSIC COMMENTARY

Prelude: Hymn Tune Prelude on St Peter

Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

Lang was a New Zealand-born British organist, composer, and music teacher. He was a pupil of Sir Walter Parratt and Sir Charles Villiers Stanford at the Royal College of Music, and received his Doctorate of Music from The University of Durham.

Postlude: Prelude and Fugue in D minor, BWV 554

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

While originally attributed to Bach, scientific examination of the extant manuscripts by Alfred Dürr in 1987 and subsequent stylistic analysis of the score by Peter Williams have suggested that the eight preludes and fugues might have been composed by one of his pupils, Johann Ludwig Krebs. As Williams explains, whoever the composer was, the works show an ability to compose in diverse ways – the toccata, the Italian concerto, the *galant* style, the fughetta and the *durezza* style with slow suspensions, favoured by Girolamo Frescobaldi.

This Week

SUNDAY, 21 April 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

8am Said Eucharist

10am Sung Eucharist

11.30am Interment of the Ashes of David
Mackay

MONDAY, 22 April 2024

11am Interment of the Ashes of Andrew Wells

TUESDAY, 23 April 2024

10.30am Memorial Service for John Rowe

WEDNESDAY, 24 April 2024

10am Prayers for Christian Unity

at St. Peter's Catholic Church

7pm Eucharist

THURSDAY, 25 April 2024

ANZAC Day

OFFICE CLOSED



Next Sunday, 28 April

Fifth Sunday of Easter

8am Eucharist

First Reading: *Acts 8: 26-40*, Ted Mouritz

Second Reading: *1 John 4: 7-21*, Sam Shepherd

Gospel Reading: *John 15: 1-8*

Intercessor: Brenda Mouritz

Preacher: The Revd Dr Wendy Crouch

10am Eucharist

First Reading: *Acts 8: 26-40*, Andrew Milne

Second Reading: *1 John 4: 7-21*, Barbara Brown

Gospel Reading: *John 15: 1-8*

Intercessor: Keith Beecher

Preacher: The Revd Dr Wendy Crouch

Morning Tea: Molly Bull, Andrew & Marinella
Milne



ST. JOHN'S
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EST. 1859

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