

# Home Worship Service

May 3 – Easter 4

## A Call to Worship from many places

We gather in our Separation  
In a world that has changed forever.  
Before you, who has called us to be a holy people  
Establishing with us an everlasting Covenant.

This day we come in spirit and in truth.  
Come now and dwell with us  
Lord Jesus Christ;  
that we may be held in your hand.

We are connected by God's Spirit of comfort and hope  
in this place and in many places.  
As we worship today,  
hear our prayers and be with us always.

Prayers of intercession for those we hold dear, followed by the Lord's Prayer

## Lectionary Readings – Easter 4

Fourth Sunday of Easter (May 3)

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Acts 2: 42 -47

Psalm Psalm 23

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 1 Peter 2: 19 - 25

Gospel John 10: 1 - 10

### With Love to the World

This week's offering (Easter 4 – May 3)  
is from Psalm 23 **The Divine Shepherd**

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want  
He makes me lie down in green pastures  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake*

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley  
I fear no evil for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff – they comfort me*

*You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.*

*Surely goodness and mercy  
shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.*

Or read any of the Lectionary Readings set for today

## Reflection

*"With Love to the World"*

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 [and in difficult times we hoard - in case we miss out]. 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. [As we have seen recently, this economic approach and reliance on such production cannot be sustained in times of a crisis which affects us all]. 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?

Conclude this worship opportunity by watching **Songs of Praise – ABC Sunday 11.30am**