

Eden Uniting Worship Service

Sunday 3 May, 2020

Theme - Follow the one who calls

We welcome all to join us
in the worship of God

Call to Worship

We gather today expectant and hopeful:
an Easter people who look to the new day. Call us to new life today.
The Good Shepherd calls us here to life in the community of faith.

Jesus said - "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. John 10:11-15

Gathered and called let us worship God.

Song 1 - Something Beautiful by Steve Apirana

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6aEhXBEUnZU&feature=youtu.be>

(You can find the words on page 4 of the PDF of Michael's sermon)

Prayer of Invocation

Ever-present God,
we long to hear your call afresh in our lives. Help us to know your presence and your love. As we worship this day, move amongst us that we might be assured of your companionship. In Christ's name, **Amen.**

Acknowledgement of Country

St Georges Uniting Church,
Eden acknowledges that we are
on the traditional lands of
Aboriginal people.
We pay respect to the Yuin
people, especially to their
elders past and present, and
recognise the continuing gift of
their culture to the life and
spirit of Australia.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
there are times in our lives when we feel distant from your voice.
Times when we feel adrift, cut off and unsure.
In these times, we stumble about and sometimes harm one another and
the world. We forget your promises and your way, your call to love and
to community. We confess there are other times, not when we feel lost,
but when we act for selfish gain, even when we know your love calls us.
Forgive us and renew us; give us vision to see a better way,
a way which offers freedom and the fullness of life for all.
Merciful God, we are indeed in need of your mercy for we are a
stubborn people, slow to learn and quick to forget.
Help us to come into your presence and to follow your call.

Words of Assurance

Though we walk in darkness, Christ the light of the world is the Good
Shepherd who leads us beside the still waters to new life. In mercy, we
are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Song 2 - Here I am by Michael W Smith

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6aEhXBEUnZU&feature=youtu.be>

Prayer of Adoration and Thanksgiving before hearing God's word.

Holy God,
your love for us is never ending.
Even when we do not deserve it, you come and you call to us.
We give thanks for your persistence: for the way you seek us out
and yearn to be in relationship with us. We can scarcely comprehend
such love for it is too powerful to understand.
And yet, again and again you have shown us that we are the beloved.
We give thanks for the gift of the Christ who showed us what true love
looks like, what true faithfulness means and who was not afraid to
follow love's call, even to the cross. We give you thanks for your Holy Spirit
and the word your Spirit has inspired. Give us insight from it so our following of
you will be worthy of your calling. All praise, honour and glory be yours
forever. In his name, and for his sake, we pray. **Amen.**

The Receiving of God's Word

Bible readings - Please read Acts 2:42-47 & 1 Peter 2:19-25

Song before the Sermon - River of Love by Rick Price

<https://youtu.be/fwScv9B5UJs>

Sermon - 'Follow the one who calls' - A sermon by Michael Palmer

<https://youtu.be/anxECCwA2hA>

Song 4 - Psalm 23 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrKEPL-BeoQ>

Affirmation of Faith - The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, *'catholic' means 'universal'*
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

A Prayer in offering ourselves to God

Generous God, Our talents, our skills, our very lives are a gift from you;
All we have are precious treasures we are called to nurture. Receive
afresh all that we are and may our lives - our time, talents and earthly
riches - be used to bring hope and light. **Amen.**

General Prayers

Gracious God,

today we pray for our world.

It is groaning under the weight of our living. For far too long we have
used its resources without thought of the consequences.

Help us to care for the earth and to do what we can to repair the damage
done. *(A time to develop these thoughts in private prayer)*

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Today we pray for all people:

for those living under the heavy burden of poverty,
for those running for safety from the tyranny of violence, for those who
are mourning and those who have died. Help us to care for one another,
especially when we are at our most vulnerable.

(A time to develop these thoughts in private prayer)

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Today we pray for ourselves.

Give us courage to face all the ups and downs of life. Grant us hope
when we feel lost and generosity of heart when we feel loved.

(A time to develop these thoughts in private prayer)

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift all of these prayers, both spoken and those that lie silently on our
hearts to you, merciful God. We trust in your mercy. **Amen.**

Concluding Song - Anywhere with Jesus - by Amy Grant

<https://youtu.be/EWFAsqxIZKI>

(You can find the words on page 4 of the PDF of Michael's sermon)

Commissioning and Benediction

Go out and listen for the voice of the Good Shepherd.

Know that when he calls, you will recognise him;

for Christ always calls us to the place of love,

to the place of hope, even in the midst of darkness.

Go in God's grace and with God's blessing.

In the name of the one who calls us. **Amen.**