

***Please note- during the pandemic of Covid 19 we will not be shaking hands but will be able to place our hands on our hearts, speak words of peace to each other and bow our heads in respect.***

***Chairs have been placed with more separation. Those who live in the same house together (including Carers) can sit together but others are asked to spread out across the church. Please use hand sanitiser following the offering.***

**MUSICIAN**

**Don Haddon**

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

In times of crisis and fear we can wander around like sheep without a shepherd. We come knowing that even in the darkest and most uncertain of times, God is with us. Jesus is the light of the world. He is the good shepherd who takes care of the sheep.

So may the light of Christ Jesus be with you all.  
***And also with you.***

So let us come and worship God.

**SONG      TiS 152 Joyful, joyful**

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore you,  
God of glory, God of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before you,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the dark of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.
  
2. All your works with joy surround you,  
earth and heav'n reflect your rays,  
stars and angels sing around you,  
centre of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
singing bird and flowing fountain  
call to praise you joyfully.
  
3. You are giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
well-spring of the joy of living,

ocean-depth of happy rest.  
You our Father, Christ our brother,  
all are yours who live in love;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to your joy above.

*Tune AHB 92 Ode To Joy. Copyright. CCLI licensed) CCLI 237097*

## **PRAYER**

Jesus, servant King and Light of the world, you penetrate the darkness of the world with your love and your life, graciously enlightening us in ways which enable us to see the world and our neighbours as you see them. We confess, however, that there are times when we choose to reject the gift of your insight, preferring to 'close our eyes' to the pain and suffering which are daily experiences for so many people.

When selfishness blinds us to the needs of others;

***Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us.***

When our insensitivity blinds us to the hurt we cause others;

***Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us.***

When our prejudices blind us to the equal dignity and worth of others;

***Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us.***

When our pride blinds us to our own faults;

***Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us.***

When the lure of materialism blinds us to the poverty of others;

***Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us.***

When our fear paralyses us and we are afraid of the future:

***Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us.***

Jesus, Light of the world, help us to walk in your light so that goodness, righteousness, and truth are made visible as we reflect your love and your mercy in and through all we say and do. ***Amen***

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear the good news! "Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light". Know that we can "live as children of the light" (Ephesians 5: 8) because in Jesus, Light of the world, we are enlightened; we are healed; we are forgiven.

***Thanks be to God!***

**READING Psalm 23**

**Carol**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup>he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>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.

*This is the word of God*

**Thanks be to God**

**SERMON**

**SONG      TiS 659 The Lord is my shepherd**

The Lord is my shepherd,  
and I want to follow  
wherever he leads me,  
wherever he goes.  
Over the mountains,  
the waters and by-ways,  
valleys and highways  
he's waiting for me.

*I want to go to meet him there,  
to lay myself down in his love.  
The Lord is my shepherd  
and I want to follow  
wherever he leads me  
wherever he goes.*

And while on the journey  
to where we are going  
he promised to be there  
to help us along,  
and over the mountains  
we'll walk on together,  
to know all the wonders  
he's given to me.

*I want to go to meet him there,  
to lay myself down in his love.  
The Lord is my shepherd*

*and I want to follow  
wherever he leads me  
wherever he goes.*

*Music and Words Brian Kerry Boniwell CCLI No. 237097*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Let us bring before the God of our Lord Jesus Christ the faces we know well, those we know a little, those on whom we have passed hasty judgement, and faces to whom we cannot put a name. And let us seek God's blessing on all.

Most loving God we bring before you today people in many places and many faces. As we name them now we seek your blessing upon them.

The kindly faces who have loved and nurtured us; family, friends, neighbours and workmates, those on earth and those in heaven.

Give them and us good sight, loving God,

***And may we all see your glory***

We pray for the medical teams throughout the world- and especially here in Westmead. May you give them strength, wisdom and continued good health as they seek to care for others.

We think of the people who are grieving- those from natural causes, those from disease or illness, from accident or increasingly from the Covid 19 virus.

Help all who grieve and bring them your comfort and peace.

We think of politicians throughout the world, and our State and Federal, Government and Opposition, minor parties and independents. May they discover your strength in the decisions they have to make at this time.

We think of the faces of those who are loved by us- people we care about, people we have loved and those we continue to love. May all of us find your strength in the coming weeks and months.

May we be people who turn to you as to the Good shepherd who leads us through the difficult and fearful places to a place of serenity, comfort and peace.

*Silence*

Loving God, these are all your children, cherished with a priceless love. Through each of them, and through your whole human family, let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Then indeed we shall be blest beyond anything we can as yet see or imagine. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour in whose name we now pray....

***Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,***

***Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins,  
As we forgive those who sin against us.***

***And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
Forever and ever, Amen.***

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OFFERING**

God, you bless us in so many ways- even when we are struggling. Your abundance is with us and we offer these gifts, a small part of our abundance, to you that you might use it to help others. Amen

### **PASSING OF A SIGN OF PEACE**

May the peace of the Lord be with you

***And also with you***

### **SONG      TiS 675 Shine Jesus Shine**

Lord the light of your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,  
set us free by the truth you now bring us –  
shine on me, shine on me.

***Shine, Jesus, shine,  
fill this land with the Father's glory;  
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.***

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,  
from the shadows into your radiance;  
by your blood I may enter your brightness:  
search me, try me, consume all my darkness –  
shine on me, shine on me.

***Shine, Jesus, shine,***

As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
so our faces display your likeness,  
ever changing from glory to glory:  
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story –  
shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,*

*Words and Music Graham Kendrick CCLI No. 237097*

## **BENEDICTION**

May the Good Shepherd who walks with us keep you safe.  
May you walk in places of fear knowing that God is with you.  
May you continue to bring light and hope to those who need it,  
and may you find and hold onto the peace of our loving God.

And may God's blessing be upon you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Creator, Redeemer and the One who strengthens us be with you all.