

Fifth Sunday of Easter 28th April 2024



PSALM 23 WEEK 2

Commentary on Psalm 23:2 by Claudio Carvalhaes in Upper Room Disciplines, April, 2024

As we repeat our reading of Psalm 23, another set of words comes to my heart: “God makes me lie down in green pastures; God leads me beside still waters.” Let us read this backwards. The verses from last week said we “shall not want” because the Lord is our shepherd. This shepherd, the Lord, takes us to green pastures and beside still waters. That is why we shall not want, because we have what we need to eat and enough to drink.

Not long ago in Brazil, a poor mother of five children was put in jail because she stole five dollars worth of food for her and her children to eat. They were hungry. All she had was an empty belly and children to feed. The conditions of society prevented her from being able to be a good shepherd to her children and she was quickly punished for it. The judge who presided over her case—who earns an annual salary that in the US would be equivalent to \$100,000—decided to put this woman in jail, saying that she had a

“harmful character.”

This woman and this judge live in a world where a few have more than they need and many must always be in need. There exists enough for all in our world. How can we who have more than what we need shift to desire what God desires and be moved to share our wealth so that everyone can have enough?

Many churches inspire their members to demand that every single person should be provided with enough food and water, shelter, and care. What more can we as followers of Christ do to ensure that every person has what they need? Through our church work, we can create places that provide for all to have enough. Every time we eat and drink, let us remind ourselves of our Shepherd and the command we have to be our Shepherd’s hands and feet in the world for others.

God, make me lie down in green pastures; lead me beside still waters. (Repeat three times.) Amen

‘GROWING A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR ALL’

Vicar: Reverend Shirley Littras

Rev'd Shirley's mobile: **0422 567 072**

Rev'd Shirley's Email: littras@optusnet.com.au

Reverend Elizabeth Bufton Healing Ministry Co-Ordinator

Rev'd Elizabeth's mobile: 0437 524 865

Rev'd Elizabeth's Email: staughtonvale@bigpond.com

St Stephen's Church: 42 Regent St. Belmont VIC 3216 Phone: (03) **52432557**

Web: www.ststephensbelmont.org.au

Email: ststephensang2@iinet.net.au

The church office is open from 9am to 5pm each week on Wednesday and Thursday



Today's Service: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 28th April, 2024

Sentence: In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. I John 4.10-11

Collect: O God, form the minds of your faithful people, that we may love what you command and desire what you promise, so that, amid the many changes of this world, our hearts may there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings Acts 8.26-40, Psalm 22.26-32, I John 4.7-21, John 15.1-8

pray for those in

need

- Jessica Roach, Mary and Arthur, Rev Liz Bufton, Rosemary Inglis, Max Osborn, George Littras, Keith Grigg, Yvonne Fyfe, Pam Burrows, Tim and Dianne, Jim and Joy Durran, Fiona, Carmel Laherty, Lyn Hilcke, Jim and Jan Dowsett, Wilf Seed, Del, Dawn, Bernard Conradie and André, Debra Conradie, Anna Bell-Hughes and Ewan, Carolyn Melling, Robert Dodds, & Anne & Richard McCullough, Tristan Durden & Allegra Daly, Mason Wood, Mavis Palmer, Lorraine Bignoux.
- For the Dying and their Support Services.

pray for the

wider church

- For the Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, Archbishop Geoffrey Smith.
- For Archbishop Philip Freier and the Diocese of Melbourne
- For the Oodthenong Episcopal Area Bishop (The Rt Dr Brad Billings).
- For the Geelong Archdeaconry (The Ven Stephen Pollard).
- For The Rev'd Jennifer Furphy as Vicar of St Paul's. Commissioning 7.30pm Thursday 23rd May 2024

- For countries experiencing natural disasters
- For a withdrawal of Russian military forces from Ukraine.
- For all who are orphaned by war and conflict and for the people of Gaza, Israel, Iran, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ukraine, Sudan as they face an uncertain future.
- For a peaceful solution to be found for the war between Israel and Gaza. For all who have lost loved ones and their homes.
- Foundation South Sudan, for finances, and scholarship recipients.
- For Wellspring Initiative for finances and the leadership team

pray for the

Community

- For the Wathaurung People, Elders past, present, and emerging, all Aborigines, Torres Strait Islanders, for reconciliation and for treaty.
- For those without influence who don't yet know Jesus.
- For those God is calling to come to know Him
- For those in financial difficulty due to rental and mortgage rate increases and the cost of providing for their families.
- Pray for all the families and friends who are grieving for those killed or injured through the stabbings in Bondi Junction and the Syrian Church..

World

Cont'd on page 3

Cont'd from page 2

Pray for

Our Church

- For our Vicar: Reverend Shirley Littras and George.
- For Reverend Elizabeth Bufton and Peter as she builds up her strength for the coming treatment.
- Please pray for the Wardens and Parish Council.
- Please pray for all St Stephen's parishioners.
- For the Eucharist Assistants.
- For the gifts, fruit and power of the Holy Spirit to be manifest amongst us.
- For the leaders and participants doing the Alpha that God's Holy Spirit will continue to be revealed to each person.

Prayer for Growth

God of Mission,
Who alone brings growth
to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give,
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow
in spiritual commitment to you,
in numbers,
And in service to our
local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

If you are last to leave the Church, the Hall or the Meeting Room, please turn off the heaters and lights. Check that ALL doors are locked.



**Turn off
all mobile
phones**

Church Directory Update

Ken Durran 7 Master's Way ,
MOOLAP 3224

Jim & Joy Durran BUPA 55 Barra-
bool Rd, BELMONT 3216

Additions to the Directory Welcome to

Dorothy Adamson, 7 Mitchell St
BELMONT 3216

Email:

dorothyadamson82@icloud.com

Ph: 03 5248 8693

Jeni Maxwell, Charles Brownlow
Lodge, Ryman, South Valley Rd,
HIGHTON 3216

Eloise Amy Zdravkovski

Date of Birth 3/11/2023

Name Tags

New name tags will be ordered in
the near future.

If you wish to order a name tag
please speak to

Helen McLean Ph 0408025204

GEELONG HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY FUND

If you would like to support this ex-
tremely valuable work, we have Direct
Debit Request Forms available to enable
us to contribute directly to the Geelong
Hospital Chaplaincy Fund. Pam Osborn
has the forms and, if required, can assist
you in completing them.

Pam : 0425 729 163

For Your Diary



THY KINGDOM COME

Light Up The World In Prayer

9th – 19th May 2024

thykingdomcome.global

'This is the confidence we have in approaching
God: that if we ask anything according to his will,
he hears us.'

1 John 5:14

REMEMBRANCE

John Hilcke

It is with great sadness that Lyn and their family said goodbye to their beloved husband and father.

John was a member of St Stephen's for many years and a gifted creator. St Stephen's will be forever grateful to John who made the prayer candle stand we use for remembrance and healing, the beautiful stand we use each year during Advent. Also, the overhead arm that holds the projector for all our services, the fencing and gates. Thank you John for your presence and skills over many years. Our sincere condolences to Lyn and their family.

A celebration of Joh's life will be 2pm Monday 6th May, St Stephen's

Playgroup Setup

Thank you Fady & Gamila Issa for assisting Pam and Max Osborn last Monday evening.

If you would be able to come to assist the team either on Monday evening from 7.15pm or Tuesday morning at 8am, it would be much appreciated and will cut down the time to only 45 minutes instead of an hour and a half. The playgroup is a major outreach to the local community. So, if you are willing to help once each month, please contact Pam Osborn 0425 729 163

ST STEPHEN'S BELMONT
on-the-hill

Join us
FOR THE LAUNCH OF
THY KINGDOM COME
ON
ASCENSION DAY
OF JESUS CHRIST
THURSDAY 9TH MAY
7:00 PM

42 Regent Street
BELMONT
www.ststephensbelmont.org.au

We are on 'Zoom' every Sunday.

Here is our Zoom link for people to access our 9:30 am service if they are not able to attend live church. It will be the same Link, Meeting ID and Passcode information
Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86484911358?pwd=eDdUa1ZsQmpoQ0wxZlJvc0pZS3YYUT09>
Meeting ID: 864 84911358
Passcode: 379683

What's Coming Up?

Playgroup

Tuesday 30th April in the Hall 9.30am

Meditation Group

Thursday 2nd May in the Hall 10am

Prayer Group

Thursday 2nd May in the Hall 11am

House Groups

Monday Afternoon

1/15 Patern St, Highton 2.30pm

Ph 5243 1095

Wednesday Afternoon

41 Kidman Avenue, Belmont 1.30pm

Ph 0421 017 882

Alpha

Wednesday evenings 6.30pm in the meeting room for supper.

Alpha Camp

Friday 17th May , 6.30pm—Sunday 19th May, 1pm, Staughton Vale Outdoor Education Camp

Highway to Healing Service

Monday 13th May 7pm

Wardens Meeting

Tuesday 14th May 7pm

Parish Council

Tuesday 21st May 7pm

LYCIG Cancelled due to Alpha

Youth Church

Sunday 12th May 9.30am

Pentecost Sunday

19th May 9.30 with a Baptism

Trinity Sunday

26th May 8.00am & 9.30am

Messy church

26th May 9.30am

Parish Contacts

Vicar

Rev'd Shirley Littras
Church Office: **5243 2557**
Mob: **0422 567 072**

Email: littras@optusnet.com.au

St Stephen's email address.

ststephensang2@inet.net.au

Vicar's Warden

Brett Gear **0418 717 141**

Church Warden

Peter Bufton **0448 694 204**

Tim Rowlands **0438 412 000**

Parish Treasurer

Anne Henderson **5243 6699**

Prayer Ministry

Helen McLean **0408 025 204**

Kid's Church

Anne Henderson **5243 6699**

Playgroup

Pam Osborn **0425 729 163**

Music Ministry

Tim Rowlands **0438 412 000**

Men's Breakfast

Max Osborn **5243 4122**

Girls' Night Out

Jane Moloney **0439 419 694**

Rosters

Jan Douglas **0428 621 121**

Child Safety officer and

Family Safety champion

Cassie Calder **0448 024 951**

Link Editor & Advertising

Helen McLean **0408 025 204**

Key Ministry Co-ordinators Families

Yvonne Fyfe **5243 7183**

Pastoral Care



Readings for Next Sunday

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-12

John 15:9-17 or John 16:16-24