

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 26 April 2026

Liturgy: p456

Easter 4

Psalm: 23

Greetings:

Welcome to Good Shepherd Sunday! All fourth Sundays of Easter take time to reflect on this significant theme in scripture and in John's gospel. Kenneth Bailey^[1] says this tradition begins with 23rd Psalm where the ordinary work of a shepherd is used to describe how God seeks out the lost sheep, brings them home, protects them, and provides all they need to flourish. Bailey describes how this tradition is reinterpreted repeatedly through threats, exile and beyond. And now by Jesus and John.

John sets his version within the healing of the man born blind, who was then cast out by the Jewish leaders, then responded to Jesus's voice when found and was included in Jesus' own community of followers. Everything Jesus says relates back to this story. And we hear echoes of this when Lazarus and Mary respond to the shepherd's voice. Jesus is the shepherd who lies across the gate at night, risking his life to protect the sheep, and is the door who welcomes all who join this flock as disciples. Jesus says, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10). Life, eternal life, life in abundance is a central theme in John.

We are both given abundant life now, and are invited to become shepherds for others. What does abundant life look like for us? How do we act as shepherds for others that they might have abundant life?

^[1] *The Good Shepherd*. InterVarsity Press, 2014. [ISBN 978-0-8308-4063-2](https://www.ivpress.com/9780830840632).

John Hebert TSSF.

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 26 April 2026

Sentence:

'I am the good shepherd,' says the Lord. 'The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'
John 10:11

Collect:

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, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, where You reign one God for ever. Amen.

OT Reading *Acts 2:42-47*

NT Reading *1 Peter 2:19-25*

Gospel *John 10:1-10*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the churches operating throughout Africa, and especially Anglican Missions partners in Ethiopia, Uganda, and Tanzania, and for Hospital Chaplains: Tauranga – Matiu Best, Leanne Brooks, Shelley Gilmore, Graham Silkstone.

We pray also for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Craig, Viv, Lynda, Lawrence, Reg, Jon.

Choral Evensong

All Parishioners are invited to attend the liturgy of Choral Evensong at St. Peter's Anglican Church in Mount Maunganui on the first Sunday of every month at 4.00pm. May - Music of Henry Purcell.

Tax Receipts

Tax receipts are available in the receipt box on the pew under the name tags. For those that prefer their receipts via email you should have received your receipt during the week.

This Week Beginning: 27 April

Wednesday 10.00 am Mid-week Communion
2.00 pm SAYGo in the hall

Sunday 9.30 am Holy Communion

Op Shop 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Tuesday to Friday
10:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday

Playgroup 9:30 – 11:30 am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Toy Library 9:30 – 11:30 am Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Contact Us

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